Thesis/
Reports
Arneson
N.A.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

USDA · Forest Service

unest

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

phase _____

2350

~~8310~~ 1950

COLORADO TRAIL
Region 2

Name of proposal

Ranger District

National Forest

Prepared by: Nils A. Arneson Date 7/11/78

Recommended by: Forest Sup. Pike & San Isabel N.F.'s Date

Forest Sup. White River N.F.

Recommended by: Forest Sup. G.M., Unc., & Gunn. N.F.'s Date

Forest Sup. Rio Grande N.F.

Recommended by: Forest Supervisor San Juan N.F. Date

Approved by: Regional Forester Date

4-2

R2-8510-2 (Rev. 11/75)

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REPORT

Summary Sheet

I. DESCRIPTION: (Proposed action in its background environmental setting.)

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND EFFECTS:

III. SUMMARY OF PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED:

IV. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY:

V. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES:

VI. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION: (Description, effects and reasons for non-selection)

VII. CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS:

VIII. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS:

IX. ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT RECOMMENDATION:

REMARKS: _____

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Region 2

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

COLORADO TRAIL
REGIONAL DIRECTION
CORRIDOR SELECTION

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DRAFT

ARNESON: KP

7/11/78

COLORADO TRAIL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
REPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

The concept of the Colorado Trail has evolved since 1973. This assessment is made to describe actions taken to date, to describe the current direction, to consider impacts and alternative courses of action and to provide Regional direction for completion and management of the Colorado Trail.

The Colorado Trail will extend from Kassler, at the mouth of Waterton Canyon near Denver, to Durango. The trail is a part of the National Forest Trail system along this corridor. Current direction is to construct the trail along the corridor proposed in 1977 and shown on the enclosed maps. Approximately ____% of this corridor presently exists.

In 1973, the Forest Service held a series of workshops with concerned individuals to discuss problems related to providing trail recreation and educational opportunities. The problems included a lack of public awareness and support of National Forest trail system. It was decided that it was desirable to involve the users and the potential supporters in helping correct the problems and creating awareness of the situation. The Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc,. was formed in May 1974 to work cooperatively with the Forest Service and other agencies and groups to give greater emphasis to a trail system between Denver and Durango - the Colorado Trail.

The goals of the Colorado Trail are:

1. Develop a non-vehicular trail system between Denver and Durango for recreational and educational uses. This system will include the main trail as the backbone and also a network of connecting and side trails to provide numerous loops and access to interest and camp areas.

2. Provide emphasis on the educational opportunities that exist and to involve schools, colleges, universities, organizations, communities and individuals. The corridor is considered to be a linear classroom of nature's ecosystems where individuals and groups can find the learning experiences they desire.

3. Encourage participation in the voluntary construction and maintenance of the system to provide a greater involvement, awareness, and appreciation of resource management and to encourage self development. These Goals are consistent with National direction and with the Roles of Forest Service in Out door Recreation (FSM 2302, ID #8). Region 2 programming direction recognizes the Colorado Trail and provides support for the cooperative effort.

The Colorado Trail location is within five Forest Service administrative units. The following map (Figure A) indicates the proposed alignment. Table 1 summarizes the milage on each unit.

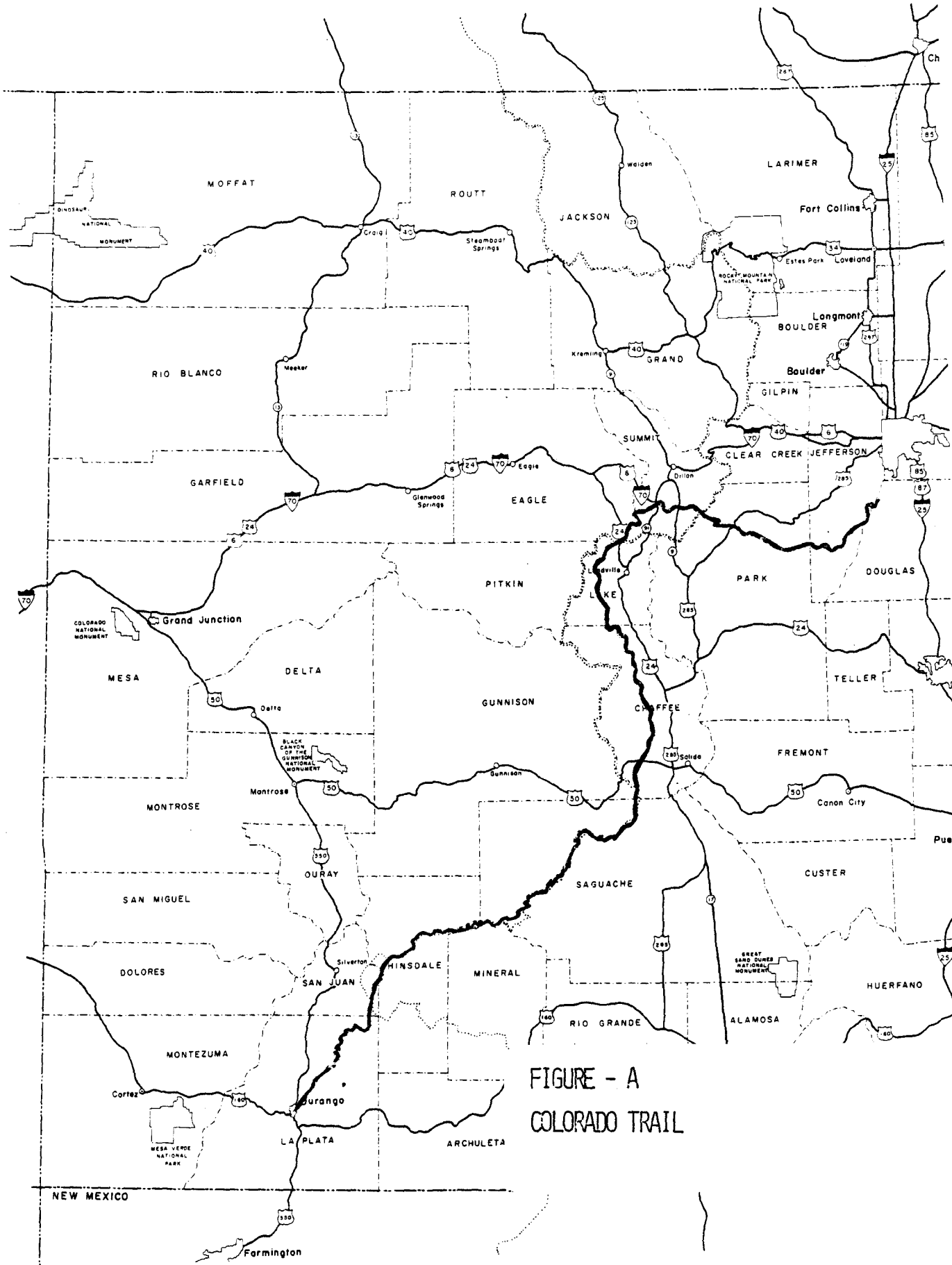


FIGURE - A

COLORADO TRAIL

Table 1

Colorado Trail Mileage

National Forests	Total Miles
Pike & San Isabel	165
White River	40½
Rio Grande	59½
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, & Gunnison	62
San Juan	53
Total	380

II. AFFECTED ENVIROMENT

A. General

The Colorado Trail Traverses some of the most spectacular scenery in the United States, the southern Rocky Mountains of Colorado. A great variety of terrain, climate and plant and animal life exists within the corridor. Figure B depicts the topographic profile, approximate elevations and prominent reference points along the Colorado Trail.

Figure B

Colorado Trail

Topographic Profile

Three life zones are found along the route. The artic-alpine life zone, above 11,500 feet, contains sparce grasses and herbs. Major mountain peaks are backdrops for the trail in these areas. Lands between 8,000 and 11,500 feet are within the montane life zone which is subdivided into the Hudzonian and Canadian zones. Stands of spruce, fir and lodgepole pine on the north-facing slopes create a lush, deep-green appearance. The south facing slopes, which are drier, primarily support aspen and sage brush. Below 8,000 feet the transition life zone contains shrubs, grasses, willows, aspen and scattered ponderosa pine.

Climatic conditions are characterized by warm summers and cold winters. Temperatures have a wide seasonal and daily variation. Frost can occur in any month of the year at elevations over 10,000 feet. Annual precipitation ranges from 15 inches at Denver to 45 inches at the higher elevations. Most of the precipitation occurs during the winter months, but severe summer thunderstorms are common.

The Colorado Trail Traverses the headwaters of 5 major river systems - South Platte River, Blue River and Eagle River tributaries of the Colorado River, Arkansas River, Rio Grande River and San Juan River.

Nearly 2.5 million people live within a 2-3 hours travel time from Colorado Trail. Colorado's population expanded from 1.8 million in 1960 to 2.6 million in 1976, up 45%. Most of this growth has been along the Front Range from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs at the north east end of the Colorado Trail.

B. Fish and Wildlife

An abundance of wildlife species can be found along the Colorado Trail corridor. Most species found in a mountainous habitat can be expected along the corridor. Table 2 lists the typical birds found in Colorado and the associations where they are found.

Elk, mule deer and bear are the primary big game species. Small mammals common to the route are cottontail rabbit, muskrat, beaver, skunk, coyote and squirrels. Grouse are the most important upland game bird. Birds of prey include the southern bald eagle, the American peregrine falcon, golden eagle and northern bald eagle, osprey and numerous other species of hawks and falcons. Primary cold water fish species are rainbow, brook and brown trout.

A list of endangered species that could be expected to be along the corridor are shown in Table 3. In addition to this list, several unique species including the wolverine, foxes, Canada Tynx, pine marten, mountain lion, bobcat, bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain goat may be encountered.

C. Land Use

Recreation use is an important resource along the entire Colorado Trail corridor. Appendix A describes the recreation opportunities that may be provided. The physical and managerial settings are used as broad criteria necessary to identify for the users some of the recreation opportunites that can be expected.

TABLE

TYPICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF COLORADO

BIRDS AND VEGETATION

Terrain	*Typical Birds*	*Typical Vegetation*
	ARCTIC–ALPINE ZONE above 11,500 feet	
Mountaintops (above timberline)	White-tailed Ptarmigan Water Pipit, Brown-capped Rosy Finch	Alpine Avens Alpine Clover Sedges and Grasses Mat or Cushion Plants Mountain Dryad Arctic Gentian and other Alpine Plants
	HUDSONIAN ZONE 11,500–11,000 feet	
Upper portion of coniferous forest including wind timber to timberline	Wilson's Warbler, Pine Grosbeak, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow	Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Limber Pine Bristlecone Pine Willows
	CANADIAN ZONE 11,000–8000 feet	
Forest-covered Mountains	Three-toed Woodpecker Gray Jay, Nutcracker Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Townsend's Solitaire, Kinglets Audubon's Warbler	Engelmann Spruce Subalpine Fir Lodgepole Pine Quaking Aspen Willows
	TRANSITION ZONE 8000–5500 feet	
Higher Tablelands, Foothills and Canyons	White-throated Swift Hummingbirds Sapsuckers Woodpeckers, (Downy and Hairy) Flycatchers (*Empidonax*) Wood Pewee Swallows, (Tree and Violet-green) Steller's Jay, Chickadees Dipper, Canyon Wren Bluebirds, (Western and Mountain) Vireos, Western Tanager	Ponderosa Pine Douglas Fir Quaking Aspen Lodgepole Pine Blue Spruce, Willow Birch, Alder
Lower Tablelands	Poor-will, Scrub Jay Rock Wren, Virginia's Warbler, Rufous-sided Towhee	Scrub Oak, Snowberry Rocky Mountain Juniper, Mountain Mahogany, Squaw Currant Colorado Hawthorn

____miles are within congressionally established wilderness and more may be established after RARE II decisions are made.

Watershed management is important at the higher elevations which serve as snow storage for the major river drainages. ____miles also contain commercial timber potential and ____miles are grazed by domestic livestock within allotments ____miles have been identified as crossing critical wildlife habitat.

Table 4 summarizes the wilderness and recreation situation. Table 5 summarizes timber potential, grazing uses, and wildlife concerns.

Table 2 - Endangered Species Possible Along the Colorado Trail.

American Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinis anatum
Arctic Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinis turdrius
Southern Bald Eagle	Halpaeetas leucocephalus
*Whooping Crane	Grus Americana
*Black Footed Ferret	Mustela nigripes

*Doubtful if these would be encountered along this corridor.

Note:

Need input of miles of trail traversing known habitat of the ~~above~~ species and notes which indicate proximity of nesting, feeding and other life activity of the specie. This information is also needed for the alternative locations of segments.

Table 4 - Summary of Wilderness and Recreation Opportunities along Colorado Trail.

	Miles					
	Classified	Recreation Opportunity Class				
	Wilderness	IIa	IIb	III	IV	V
Pike - San Isabel		23½	114	27	½	
White River			27½	6½	5½	1
GM-Unc-Gunn	9	12	40½	½		
Rio Grande			59	½		
San Juan	23		23	3½	3	½
TOTAL	32	35½	264	38	9	1½

Table 5 - Summary of Commercial Timber Potential and Domestic grazing uses along Colorado Trail.

	Miles of trail traversing		
	Commercial	Domestic	Critical
Forest	Forest land	Livestock grazing	Wildlife Habitat
____			
____			
____			
____			
____			

D. Historical, Cultrûal and Geological Features.

The Colorado Trail Corridor is rich in historical, cultural and geological features. These values, as well as the variety of plant and animal life, enhance the educational opportunities along this route. An inventory of specific historical, cultural and geological sites is planned as part of educational endeavors and as part of the site specific environmental analysis made prior to development decisions. Known sites are included in the segment descriptions.

III. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Goal are to:

1. Develop a trail system between Denver and Durango for recreational, educational and nonvehicular use.
2. Provide emphasis in the educational opportunities and involves schools, colleges, universities, organizations, communities and individuals.
3. Encourage participation in the voluntary construction and maintenance of the system to provide a greater involvement, awareness and appreciation of resource management and encourage self development.

The following criteria was selected to evaluate the alternatives:

1. The route would be continuous between Denver and Durango.
2. Provide a variety of trail related recreation and educational opportunities.

2a. The route can be managed for non-vehicular uses.

3. Include connecting and side trails to provide loops and access to camping and scenic areas, and provide opportunities to connect with other trail systems.
4. Disperse recreation use by providing alternatives for use away from impacted areas where possible.
5. Provide opportunities for volunteer participation in trail and facility development and maintenance.

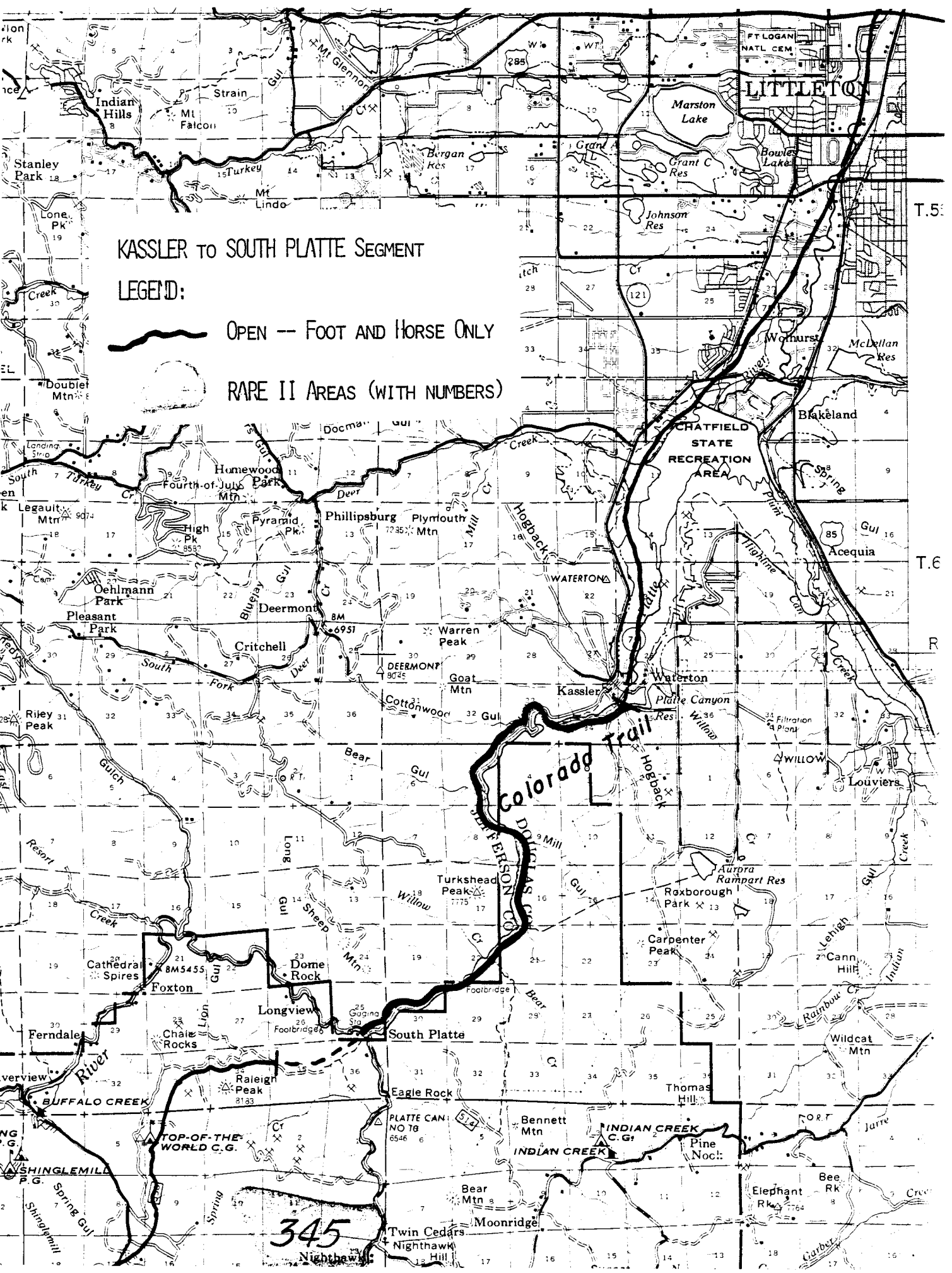
6. Recognize present management objectives and provide for adjustments through the land management planning process.
7. Suitability of the land to withstand the impacts of the trail and the users.
8. Utilize as much of the existing trail system as possible to reduce costs and environmental impacts.
9. Cost effectiveness of the alternatives.

IV. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

A. The Colorado Trail concept has evolved over a 5 year period. Alternative A describes actions taken to date and portrays the current direction for the Colorado Trail.

The more significant qualities, characteristics and trail opportunities of the Colorado Trail have been identified and are described in the following narrative of 15 route segments:

1. Kassler to South Platte - Waterton Canyon
2. South Platte to Kenosha Pass
3. Kenosha Pass to Georgia Pass
4. Georgia Pass to Copper Mountain
5. Copper Mountain to Tennessee Pass
6. Tennessee Pass to Twin Lakes
7. Twin Lakes to Cottonwood Creek
8. Cottonwood Creek to Fooses Creek
9. Fooses Creek to Windy Peak
10. Windy Peak to North Pass
11. North Pass to Cochetopa Creek
12. Cochetopa Creek to Spring Creek Pass
13. Spring Creek Pass to Rio Grande
14. Rio Grande to Vallčeto Creek
15. Vallčeto Creek to Durango


KASSLER to SOUTH PLATTE SEGMENT
LEGEND:
OPEN -- FOOT AND HORSE ONLY
RAPE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
345
LITTLETON
CHATFIELD STATE RECREATION AREA
Colorado Trail
JEFFERSON CO
DOUGLAS CO
Kassler
Waterton
Deermont
Phillipsburg
Foxton
Longview
South Platte
Dome Rock
Cathedral Spires
Chair Rocks
Raleigh Peak
Eagle Rock
Twin Cedars
Nighthawk
Moonridge
Bear Mtn
Bennett Mtn
Pine Nook
Roxborough Park
Louviers
Acequia
Blakeland
Womurst
Marston Lake
Johnson Res
Grant A Res
Grant C Res
Bowles Lake
McLellan Res
Bergan Res
Platte Canyon Res
Aurora Rampart Res
Indian Hills
Mt Falcon
Strain
Mt Glennon
Stanley Park
Lone Pk
Mt Lindo
Turkey Cr
Double Mtn
Legault Mtn
Homewood Park
Fourth-of-July Mtn
Pyramid Pk
High Pk
Plymouth Mtn
Oehlmann Park
Pleasant Park
Critchell
Warren Peak
Goat Mtn
Cottonwood
Riley Peak
Bluejay Gul
South Fork Deer Cr
Bear Gulch
Resort Creek
Long Gul
Sheep Mtn
Willow Cr
Turkshead Peak
Carpenter Peak
Cann Hill
Wildcat Mtn
Thomas Hill
Elephant Rk
Bee Rk
Ferndale
Chair Rocks
Lion Gul
Buffalo Creek
Top-of-the-World C.G.
Shinglemill C.G.
Shinglemill Spring Gul
Spring Gul
Indian Creek C.G.
Indian Creek
Platte Canyon No 78
Nighthawk Hill
Hogback
Willow Creek
Rainbow Cr
Lehigh Indian Cr
Jarre Cr
Carbet Cr
Footbridge
Gauging Sta
Filtration Plant
FT LOGAN NATL CEM
T.5
T.6
R

Segment Kassler to Pike - San Isabel National Forest

South Platte

Description:

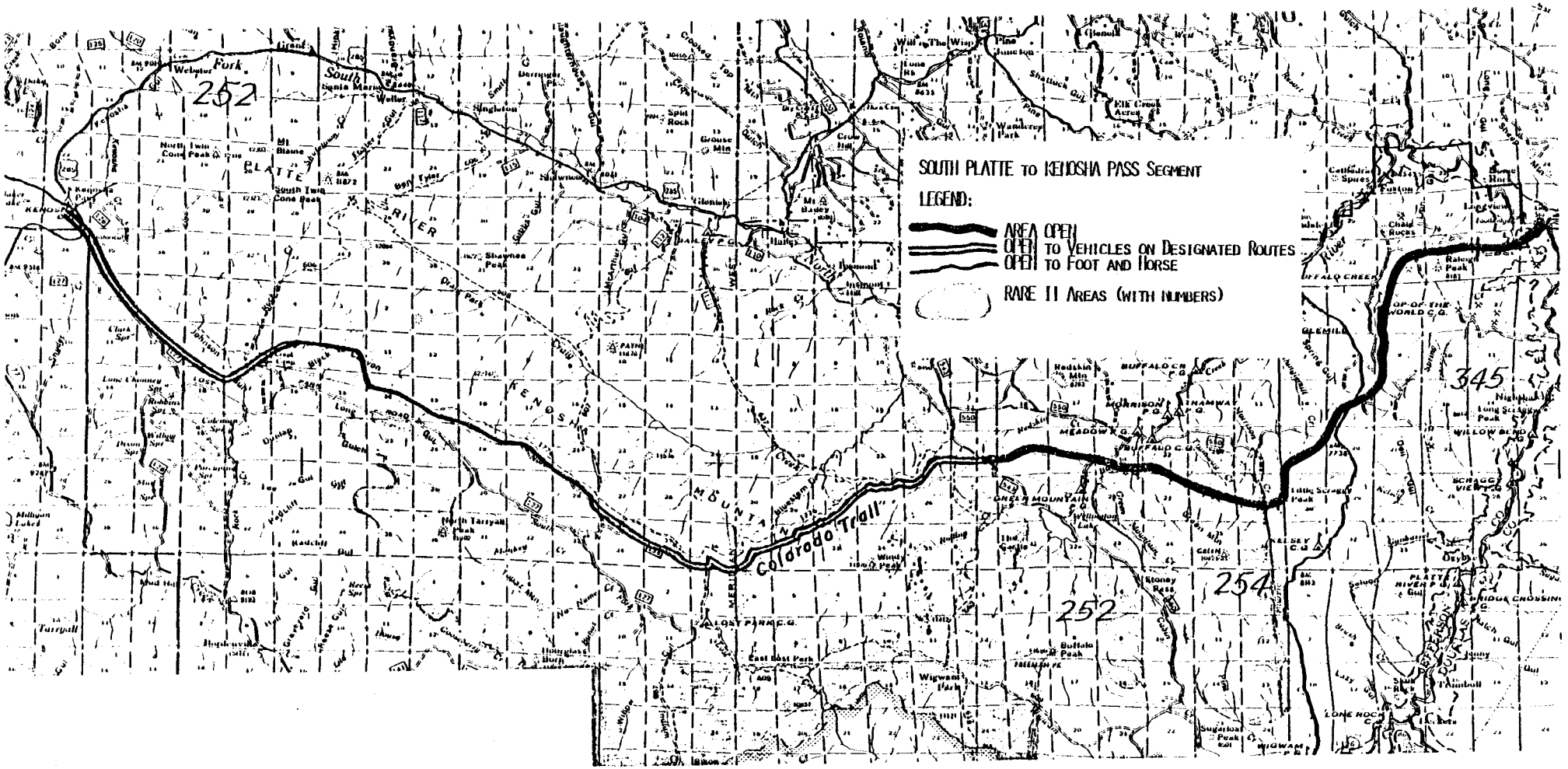
The start of the Colorado Trail is at Kassler, where it ties in with the State Trail System and the Highline Canal. The trail runs through Waterton Canyon on the primitive road now requlated by Denver Water Board and the Forest Service. Stipulations of the Foothills Project will assure public access through this section.

Except for administrative vehicular use, present use is limited to hiking and bike use. Viewing wildlife, (bighorn sheep), fishing, jogging & bicycling are the most common activities. This is the most heavily used segment of the Colorado Trail. Trailheads are proposed at each end of this Segment.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	3	3			
Non N.F. Land	7½	7½			
Total	10½	10½			
Commercial Timber	-				
Domestic Grazing	-				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness		Open to Foot & Horse Only-10½ (Presently horse use must be approved by DWB)	F.S.		7½
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.					
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized					
III-Rustic	10½				
IV-Semi.Urban					
V-Urban					


SOUTH PLATTE to KENOSHA PASS SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREA OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
OPEN TO FOOT AND HORSE
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
252
345
254
252
Colorado Trail
PLATTE RIVER
South Platte
Fork
MERIDIAN
WEST

Segment South Platte — Pike - San Isabel National Forest

Kenosha Pass

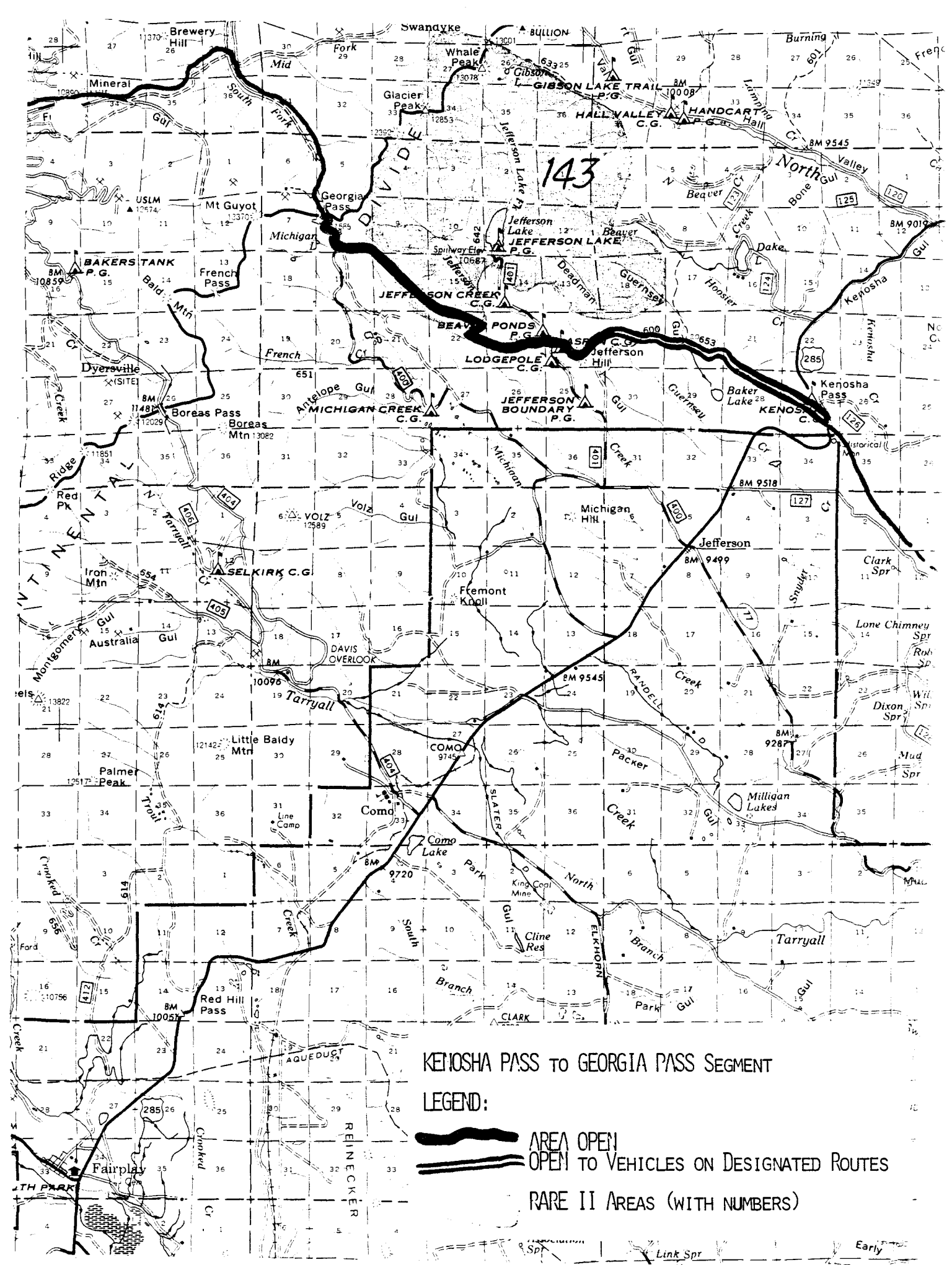
Description:

Trail climbs out of South Platte River to Top-of-the-World Campground, crosses Hwy 126, then crosses Buffalo Creek above Buffalo CGd. The Trail then continues westerly to Trail #1776, up No. Fork Lost Creek, through Black Canyon, bypasses Rock Creek Cow Camp and on to Kenosha Pass. Portion of trail along ridges is about 10,000 feet in elevation with views of the Front Range. Trail crosses RARE II areas #354 and 252.

Several connecting trail opportunities exist and a side trail to Lost Creek Scenic Area is included in the System. Trailheads are proposed at South Platte, Buffalo Cr., Lost Park CGd., Rock Cr. Cow Camp, Singleton & Bailey and Kenosha Pass

	Miles				
Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II	16½		16½		
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	24	3	21		
Non N.F. Land	1½	½	1		
TOTAL	42	3½	38½		
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness		Foot & Horse Only, 8 Area Open 16½	F.S.	1½	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	8	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	27				
III-Rustic	7	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban					
V-Urban					


143
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
KENOSHA PASS to GEORGIA PASS SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREA OPEN
OPEN to VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
Swandyke
BULLION
Brewery Hill
Mineral
Whale Peak
Glacier Peak
GIBSON LAKE TRAIL P.G.
HALL VALLEY C.G.
HANDCART P.G.
Georgia Pass
Mt Guyot
USLM
Jefferson Lake
JEFFERSON LAKE P.G.
BAKERS TANK P.G.
French Pass
Baldy Mtn
JEFFERSON CREEK C.G.
BEAVER PONDS P.G.
ASPEN C.G.
Jefferson Hill
LODGEPOLE C.G.
Dyersville (SITE)
Boreas Pass
Boreas Mtn
MICHIGAN CREEK C.G.
JEFFERSON BOUNDARY P.G.
KENOSHA C.G.
Kenosha Pass
Baker Lake
Red Pk
Ridge
VOLZ
SELKIRK C.G.
Iron Mtn
Michigan Hill
Jefferson
Fremont Knoll
Australia
DAVIS OVERLOOK
Tarryall
Little Baldy Mtn
Palmer Peak
COMO
Como
Como Lake
Line Camp
King Coal Mine
Cline Res
Milligan Lakes
Red Hill Pass
CLARK
AQUEDUCT
Fairplay
REINECKER
Tarryall
Lone Chimney Spr
Dixon Spr
Mud Spr
Clark Spr
Snyder
Packer
Creek
Park
North
South
Branch
Gul
Valley
Beaver
Deadman
Guernsey
Hoosier
Kenosha
Burning
Lamping Hall
Bone
Michigan
French
Antelope
Volz
Montgomery
Troul
Crooked
Ford
Early
Link Spr

Segment Kenosha Pass to Pike-San Isabel National Forest

Georgia Pass

Description:

Trail climbs from Kenosha Pass, crosses Jefferson Creek at Aspen CGd and then climbs to Georgia Pass. Most of this segment is above 10,000 feet, with Georgia Pass being at 11,600. Trailheads are planned at Kenosha Pass and at Michigan Creek. Trail skirts the SW portion or RARE II area #143.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness	3				3
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas	7½	½		3	4
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Total	10½	½		3	7
Commercial Timber	--				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

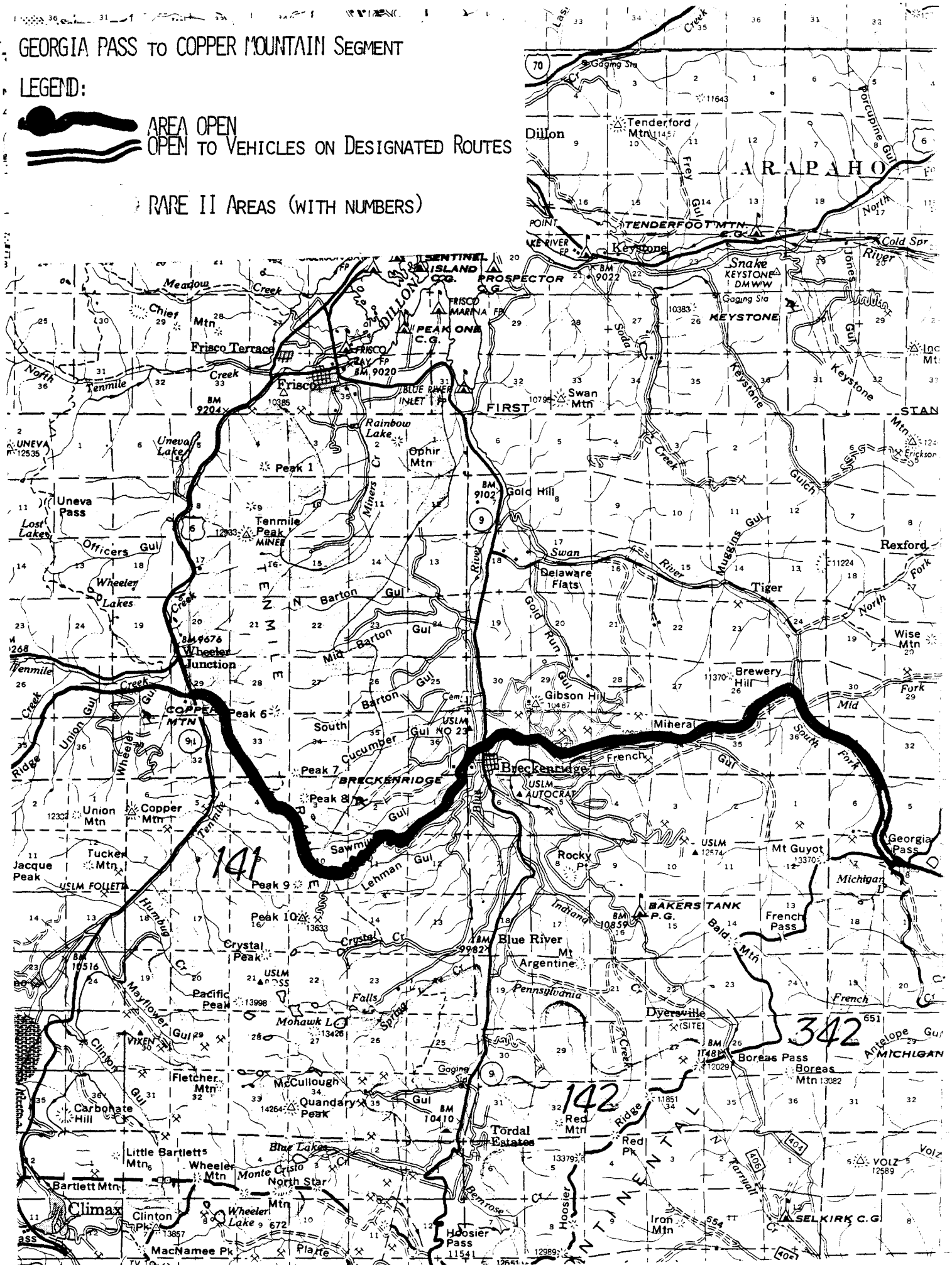
Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness		Area Open 6* Mot. on Desig. Rts. 4½*		none	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.					
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	8½	*Colorado Trail Closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
III-Rustic	2				
IV-Semi.Urban					
V-Urban					

GEORGIA PASS TO COPPER MOUNTAIN SEGMENT

LEGEND:

AREA OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES

RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)



Segment Georgia Pass to White River National Forest

Copper Mountain

Description:

Trail drops down existing roads from Georgia Pass into South Fork Swan River and French Gulch to Breekenridge, than climbs through Breckinridge SK. Area and over Ten mile Range north of Peak Nine, and down to Copper Mountain Ski Area at Wheeler Junction. Road between Mineral Hill and Breckenridge is heavily used and trail by pass is desireable. Extensive winter possibilities exist. Trailheads planned at Tiger, Breckenridge and Copper Mountain. Elevation gained and lost over Ten mile Range is about 3000 feet (9,600-12,500). Crosses RARE II Area #141

	Miles				
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	4		4		
Other Sp.Areas	3		3		
Other N.F. Land	1½	1½			
Non N.F. Land	10½	6½			4 (Road now)
TOTAL	19	8	7		4
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

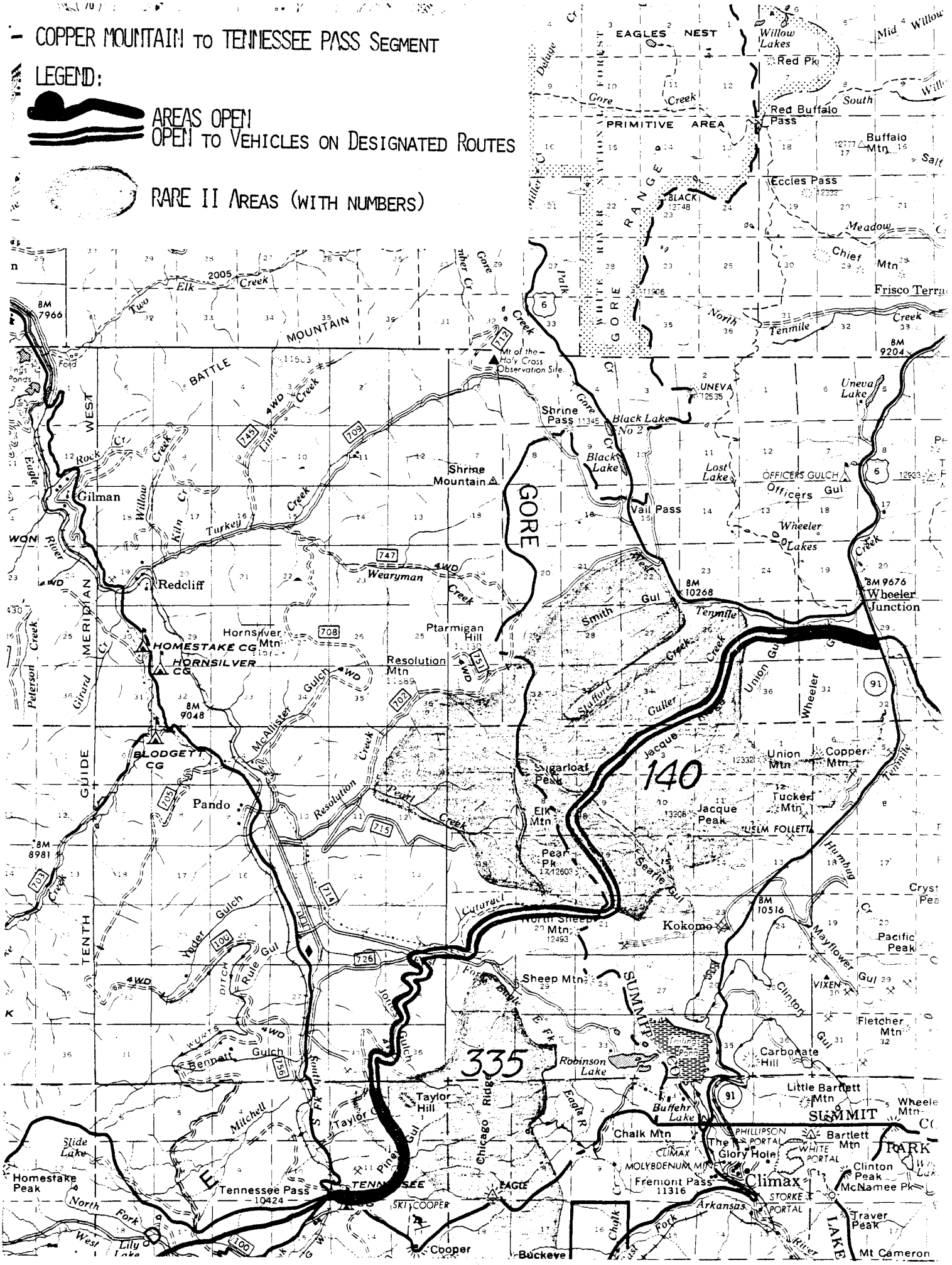
Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	By	Rights-of-Way Exist	Needs
I-Wilderness		Area Open 17½*			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.		Mot. on Desig. Routes 1½*	F.S.	6½	
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	11		County	4	
III-Rustic	4	*Colorado Trail Closed to Motorized Vehicles except _____			
IV-Semi.Urban	3				
V-Urban	1				

COPPER MOUNTAIN TO TENNESSEE PASS SEGMENT

LEGEND:

AREAS OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES

RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)


EAGLES NEST
PRIMITIVE AREA
GORE RANGE
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
Willow Lakes
Red Pk
Red Buffalo Pass
Buffalo Mtn
Eccles Pass
Meadow
Chief Mtn
Frisco Terra
Tenmile
Uneva Lake
UNEVA
Shrine Pass
Black Lake No 2
Lost Lake
OFFICERS GULCH
Officers Gul
Vail Pass
Wheeler Lakes
Wheeler Junction
Shrine Mountain
Gilman
Redcliff
Wearyman
Hornsilver Mtn
HOMESTAKE CG
HORNSILVER CG
Resolution Mtn
Ptarmigan Hill
Smith Gul
Stuffard Gulch
Union Gul
Union Mtn
Copper Mtn
Sugarloaf Peak
Jacque Peak
Tucker Mtn
ELSIM FOLLETT
Elk Mtn
Pear Pk
Seattle Gul
Humbug Cr
Kokomo
Pacific Peak
Mayflower Gul
VIXEN
Fletcher Mtn
Carbonate Hill
Little Bartlett Mtn
Wheeler Mtn
SUMMIT CO
PARK
Bartlett Mtn
Clinton Peak
McNamee Pk
Traver Peak
Mt Cameron
LAKE
Chalk Mtn
Glory Hole
CLIMAX
MOLYBDENUM MINE
Fremont Pass
Climax
PHILLIPSON PORTAL
WHITE PORTAL
STORKE PORTAL
Buffehr Lake
Robinson Lake
Sheep Mtn
North Sheep Mtn
BLODGETT CG
Pando
McAllister Gulch
Resolution Creek
Pearl Creek
Yoder Gulch
Rule Gul
Bennett Gulch
Taylor Hill
Chicago Ridge
Tennessee Pass
TENNESSEE
EAGLE
SKI COOPER
Cooper
Buckeye
Homestake Peak
Slide Lake
Lily Lake
Mitchell Creek
Pine Gul
Arkansas River
Chalk Creek
Fork
Mt of the Holy Cross Observation Site
Ford
Ponds
Elk Creek
Two Elk Creek
Rock Cr
Eagle
Willow Creek
Kiln Cr
Turkey Creek
Lime Creek
Peterson Creek
Girard Cr
Deluge Cr
Gore Creek
Miller Cr
Tenmile Creek
Meridian
West
Guide
Tenth
Mountain
Battle
Gore
Creek
Cr
Gulch
Gul
Ridge
Fk
Arkansas
Fork
River
Lake
Park
Summit
Eagle
Chicago
Ridge
Taylor
Pine
Mitchell
Lily
Lake
Cooper
Buckeye
Tennessee Pass
10424
Homestake Peak
Slide Lake
Lily Lake
Mt Cameron
Traver Peak
Clinton Peak
McNamee Pk
Climax
Fremont Pass
11316
Chalk Mtn
Glory Hole
Bartlett Mtn
Little Bartlett Mtn
Carbonate Hill
Fletcher Mtn
Pacific Peak
Kokomo
Sheep Mtn
North Sheep Mtn
Robinson Lake
Buffehr Lake
Elk Mtn
Pear Pk
Jacque Peak
Tucker Mtn
Union Mtn
Copper Mtn
Sugarloaf Peak
Resolution Mtn
Ptarmigan Hill
Hornsilver Mtn
Shrine Mountain
Vail Pass
Shrine Pass
11345
Uneva Lake
Wheeler Lakes
Wheeler Junction
Frisco Terra
Buffalo Mtn
Eccles Pass
Red Pk
Willow Lakes
Red Buffalo Pass
Gilman
Redcliff
Pando
BLODGETT CG
HOMESTAKE CG
HORNSILVER CG
Wearyman
Tenmile
Meadow
Chief Mtn
Mid Willow
South Willow
Salt
Crys
Pea
Cutaract
Fork Eagle R
Jacque
Seattle Gul
Humbug
Mayflower
Clinton
Creek

Segment Copper Mountain to White River National Forest

Tennessee Pass

Description:

Trail climbs from Copper Nountain Ski Area up Guller Creek, Crosses at pass south of Sugarloaf Peak, drops south down Cataract Creek to E. Fork Eagle River and then up to Tennessee Pass. Trail Crosses RARE II area #440 and part of #335. Trailheads are planned at Copper Mountain, Vail Pass, E. Fork Eagle River and Tennessee Pass. A connecting trail to Vail Pass and Vail Ski Area is proposed. Extensive Winter trail possibilities exist.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	10				10
Other Sp.Areas	2½				2½
Other N.F. Land	8½	1½	2		5
Non N.F. Land	½			½	
TOTAL	21½	1½	2	½	17½
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

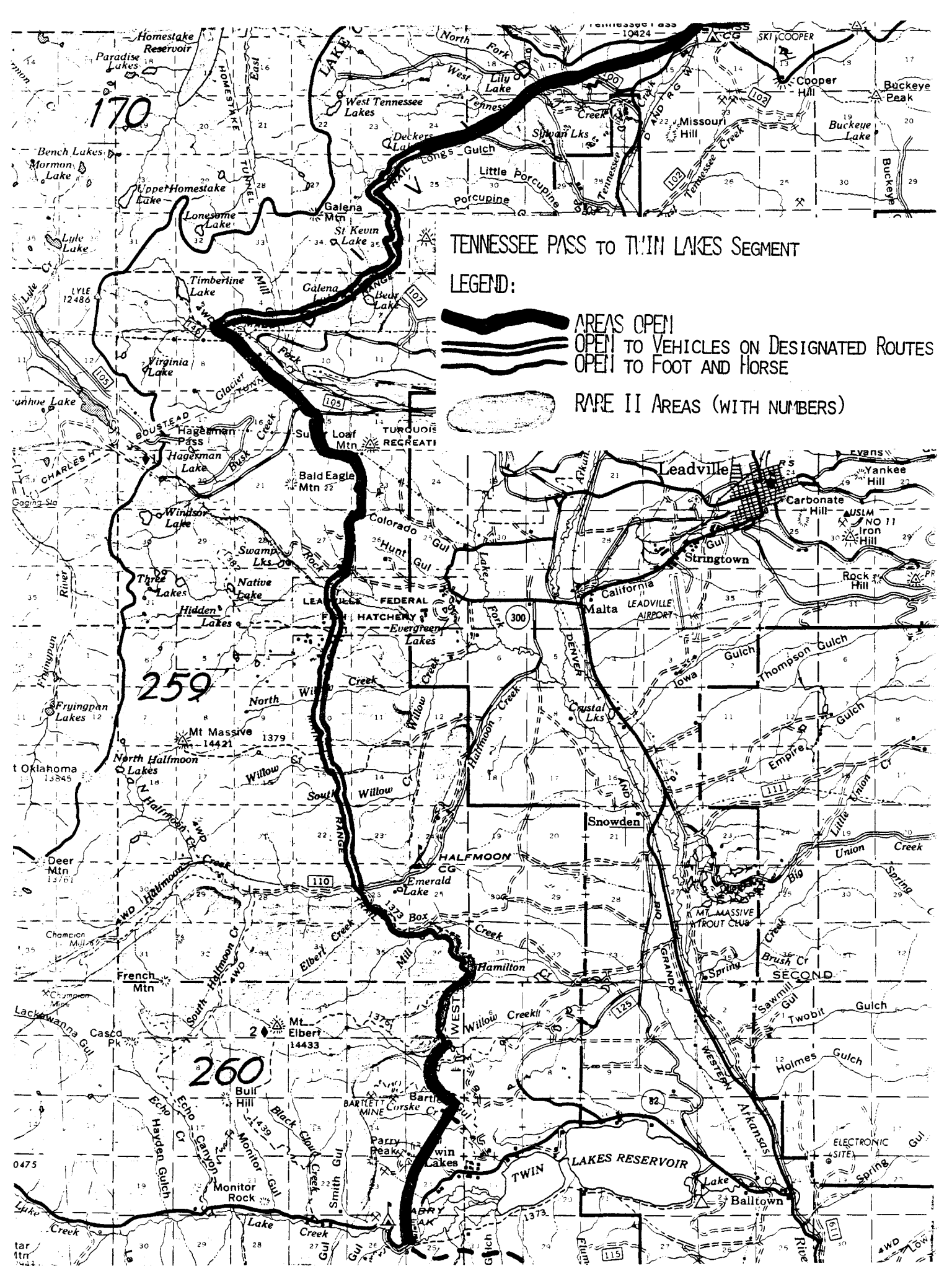
Rec. Mgt. Obj.	
Wilderness	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	16½
III-Rustic	2½
IV-Semi.Urban	2½
V-Urban	

Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives

Area Open 4½*
Mot. on Desig. Routes 17*

*Colorado Trail Closed to Motorized Vehicles except

Rights-of-Way	By	Exist	Needs
	F.S.		½


TENNESSEE PASS TO TWIN LAKES SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREAS OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
OPEN TO FOOT AND HORSE
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
170
259
260
Homestake Reservoir
Paradise Lakes
Bench Lakes
Mormon Lake
Upper Homestake Lake
Lonesome Lake
Lyle Lake
Timberline Lake
Virginia Lake
Hagerman Pass
Hagerman Lake
Bald Eagle Mtn
Windsor Lake
Three Lakes
Native Lake
Hidden Lakes
Fryingpan Lakes
Mt Massive 14421
North Halfmoon Lakes
Deer Mtn
French Mtn
Mt Elbert 14433
Bull Hill
Monitor Rock
Galena Mtn
St Kevin Lake
Galena Lake
Bear Lake
Loaf Mtn
Swamp Lks
Evergreen Lakes
Emerald Lake
Deckers Lake
Sylvan Lks
Missouri Hill
Cooper Hill
Buckeye Peak
Buckeye Lake
Little Porcupine
Porcupine
Tennessee Pass 10424
West Tennessee Lakes
West Lily Lake
North Fork
Longs Gulch
Leadville
Carbonate Hill
Iron Hill
Yankee Hill
Stringtown
California
Malta
Rock Hill
Thompson Gulch
Empire
Snowden
Crystal Lks
Twobit Gulch
Holmes Gulch
Sawmill Gul
Brush Cr
Second
Twin Lakes
Twin Lakes Reservoir
Balltown
Parry Peak
Bartlett Mine
Electronic Site
Arkansas River
Colorado Gul
Hunt Gul
Willow Creek
Halfmoon Creek
Elbert Creek
Box Creek
Hamilton Cr
Big Union Creek
Little Union Creek
Spring Creek
Lake Creek
Smith Gul
Black Cloud Creek
Echo Canyon
Hayden Gulch
Monitor Gul
Lackawanna Gul
Cascade Pk
Champion Mine
Leadville Airport
Fryingpan River
Busk Creek
Glacier Gulch
Mill Creek
Iowa Gulch
Evans
Arkansas
Tennessee
Halfmoon
Willow
Lyle
Mill
Rock
Denver
Big
Western
Arkansas
Range
Trail
Box
Creek
Gul
Gulch
Lake
Creek
Fork
Cr
Mt Massive Trout Club
Halfmoon CG
Ski Cooper
Leadville
Twin Lakes
Balltown
Twin Lakes Reservoir
Electronic Site
Parry Peak
Bartlett Mine
Monitor Rock
Lackawanna Gul
Cascade Pk
Champion Mine
Leadville Airport
Fryingpan River
Busk Creek
Glacier Gulch
Mill Creek
Iowa Gulch
Evans
Arkansas
Tennessee
Halfmoon
Willow
Lyle
Mill
Rock
Denver
Big
Western
Arkansas
Range
Trail
Box
Creek
Gul
Gulch
Lake
Creek
Fork
Cr
Mt Massive Trout Club
Halfmoon CG
Ski Cooper

Segment Tennessee Pass to Pike-San Isabel National Forest

Description: Twin Lakes

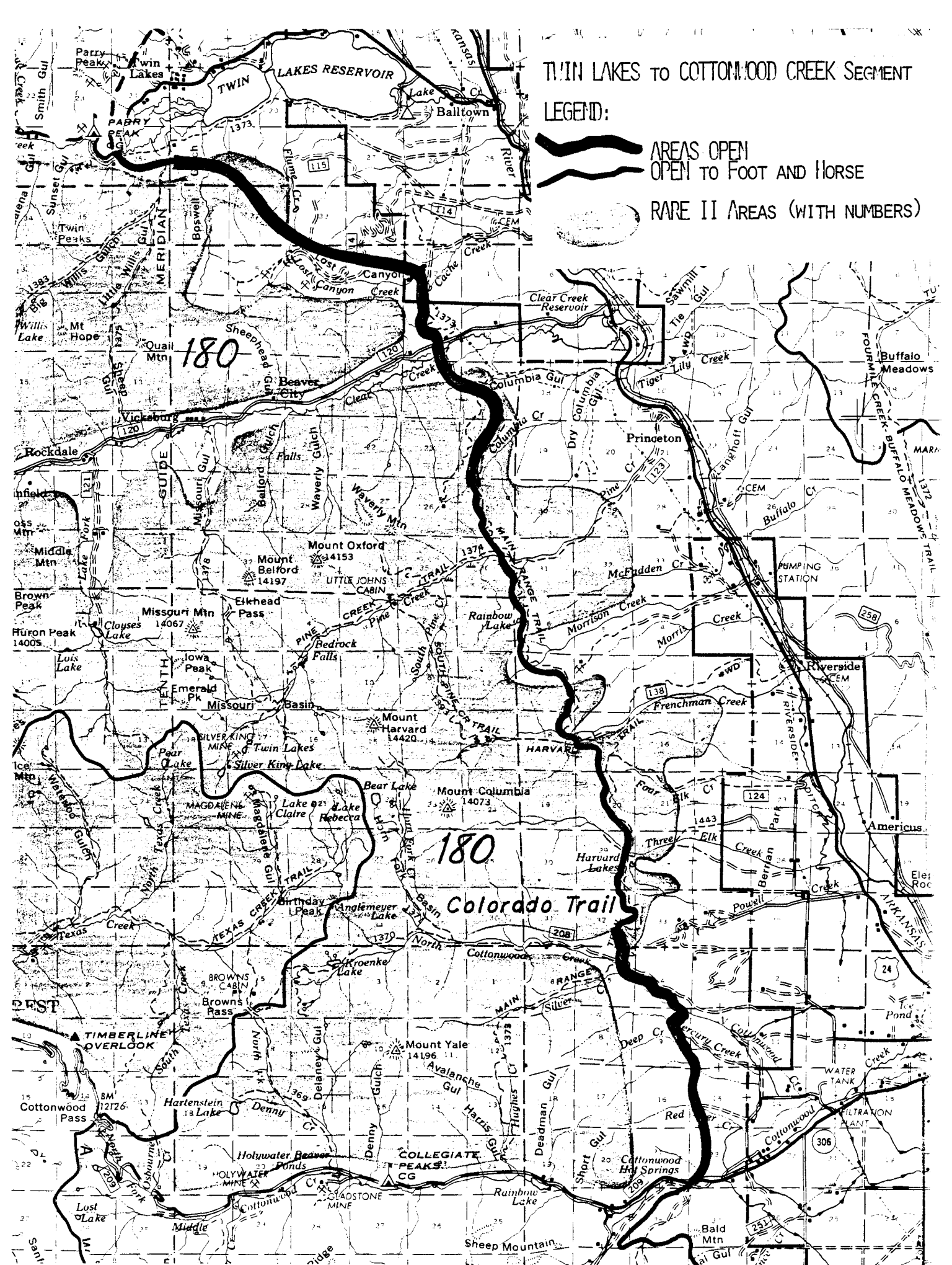
Trail drops from Tennessee Pass and picks up Main Range Trail around Turquoise Lake, then south at about the 10,000 foot level across Willow Creek & Halfmoon Creek to Parry Peak CGd west of Twin Lakes. From Tennessee Pass to Turquoise Lake and from Hidden Lakes Trail to Halfmoon Creek the Colorado Trail coincides with the corridor of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (16 miles). Several connecting trails exist to make loop possibilities with Continental Divide. Several side trip possibilities exist to upper elevations and for winter activities. Trailheads are Planned at Tennessee Pass, Turquoise Lake, Halfmoon CGd, and Parry Peak CGd. Crosses RARE II areas #170,259 & borders #260.

	Miles				
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	18	2	14		2
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	12		8		4
Non N.F. Land	1				1
TOTAL	31	2	22		7
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	
I-Wilderness	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	4½
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	23½
II-Rustic	3
IV-Semi.Urban	
V-Urban	

Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives		Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Area Open	15*			
Mot. on Desig. Routes	11½*	F.S.	1	
Open Foot & Horse Only	4½			
	31			

*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except _____


TWIN LAKES to COTTONWOOD CREEK SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREAS OPEN
OPEN to FOOT AND HORSE
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
Colorado Trail
180
180
TWIN LAKES RESERVOIR
Twin Lakes
Balltown
Parry Peak
Twin Peaks
Mt Hope
Quail Mtn
Beaver City
Vicksburg
Rockdale
Clear Creek Reservoir
Princeton
Buffalo Meadows
Mount Oxford 14153
Mount Belford 14197
Missouri Mtn 14067
Huron Peak 14005
Elkhead Pass
Rainbow Lake
Mount Harvard 14420
Mount Columbia 14073
Mount Yale 14196
Harvard Lakes
Riverside
Americus
Browns Pass
Cottonwood Pass
Hartenstein Lake
Lost Lake
Holywater Lake
Cottonwood Hot Springs
Rainbow Lake
Sheep Mountain
Bald Mtn
TIMBERLINE OVERLOOK
COLLEGIATE PEAKS CG
PUMPING STATION
WATER TANK
FILTRATION PLANT
MAIN RANGE TRAIL
TENTH MOUNTAIN TRAIL
SOUTH PINE CR TRAIL
TEXAS CREEK TRAIL
MAGDALENE GULCH TRAIL
HARVARD TRAIL
RIVERSIDE TRAIL
FOURMILE CREEK-BUFFALO MEADOWS TRAIL

Segment Twin Lakes — Pike - San Isabel National Forest

Cottonwood Creek

Description:

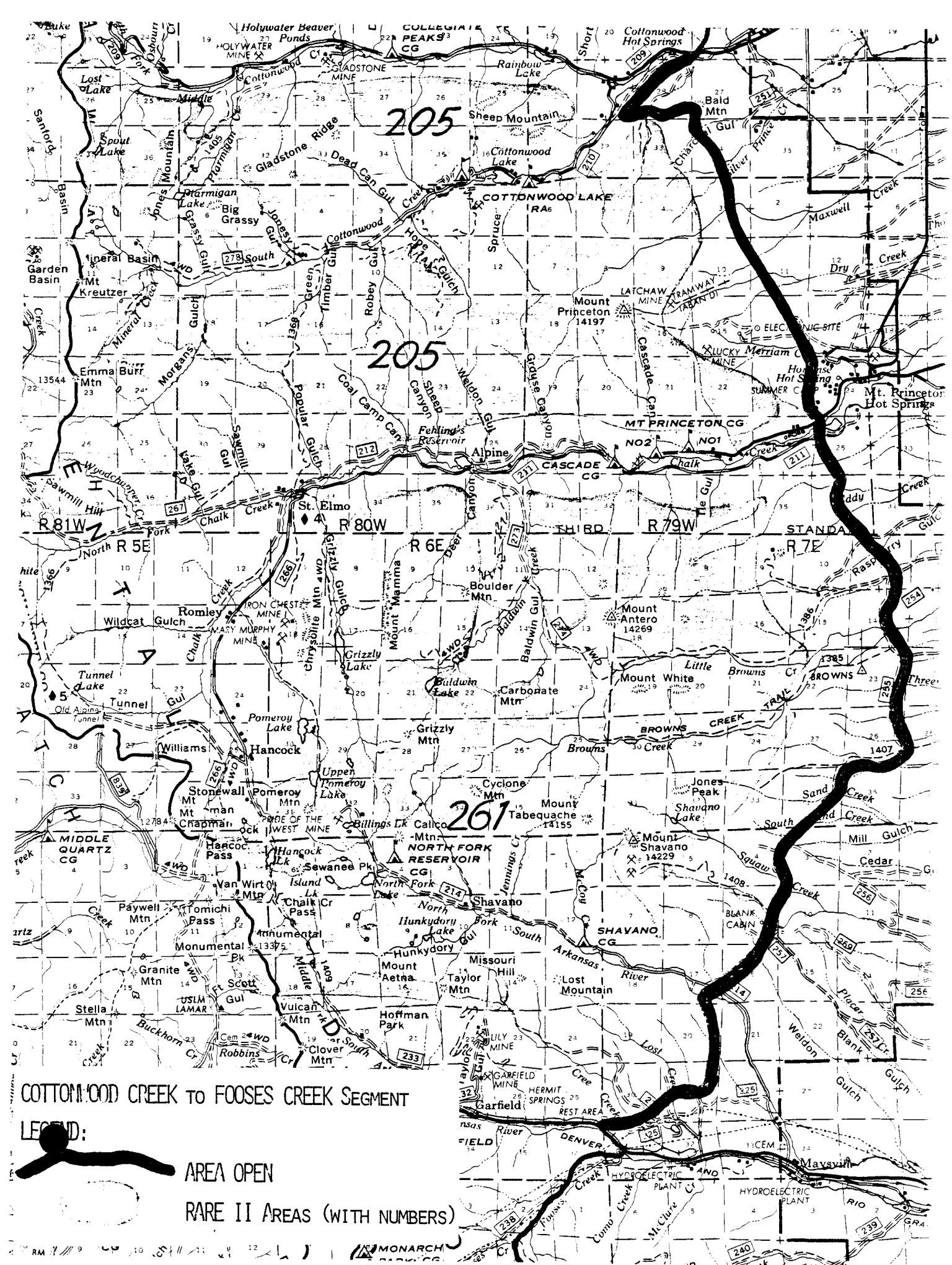
Trail runs SE from Parry Peak CGd. across Clear Creek where it picks up Main Range Trail and continues South across Pine Creek, passes Rainbow Lake, crosses Frenchman Creek and North Cottonwood Creek and then drops into Cottonwood Creek below Cottonwood Hot Springs. Most of this segment is about 10,000 feet in elevation. Numerous side trails are available to higher elevations of Collegiate Range. Winter activities possible. Most of trail in or near RARE II Area #180. Trailsheads planned at Parry Peak CGd., Clear Creek, Princeton, Riverside, North Cottonwood Creek and Cottonwood Hot Springs.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II	13		11		2
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	10½	1½	3		6
Non N.F. Land	3	½	½		2
TOTAL	26½	2	14½		10
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives		Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only	11			
	Area Open	15½*			
		26½	F.S.		2½
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.			BLM	½	
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized					
III-Rustic					
IV-Semi.Urban					
V-Urban					

*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except


COTTONWOOD CREEK to FOOSES CREEK SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREA OPEN
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
205
261
Holywater Beaver Ponds
Cottonwood Hot Springs
Sheep Mountain
Cottonwood Lake
COTTONWOOD LAKE
Mount Princeton 14197
Mt. Princeton Hot Springs
MT PRINCETON CG
CASCADE CG
Alpine
St. Elmo
Romley
Boulder Mtn
Mount Antero 14269
Mount White
Carbonate Mtn
Grizzly Mtn
Hancock
Cyclone Mtn
Mount Tabequache 14155
Mount Shavano 14229
SHAVANO CG
NORTH FORK RESERVOIR CG
MIDDLE QUARTZ CG
Garfield
Maysville
Emma Burr Mtn
Mt Kreutzer
Garden Basin
Granite Mtn
Stella Mtn
Monumental Pk
Lost Mountain
Missouri Hill
Taylor Mtn
Hoffman Park
Clover Mtn
Vulcan Mtn
Van Wirt Mtn
Paywell Mtn
Jones Peak
Shavano Lake
Hunkydory Lake
Grizzly Lake
Baldwin Lake
Pomeroy Lake
Upper Pomeroy Lake
Billings Lk
Calico Mtn
Sewanee Pk
Hancock Lk
Island Lk
North Lake
Chalk Cr Pass
Tomichi Pass
Hancock Pass
Monumental Pk
Tunnel Lake
Old Alpine Tunnel
Fehlind's Reservoir
Lily Mine
Garfield Mine
Hermit Springs Rest Area
Iron Chest Mine
Mary Murphy Mine
Pride of the West Mine
Latchaw Mine
Lucky Merriam Mine
Shavano CG
Blank Cabin
Hydroelectric Plant
Monarch
Cottonwood Creek
Hunkydory Gulch
Dead Can Gulch
Rainbow Lake
Spout Lake
Lost Lake
Middle Lake
Ptarmigan Lake
Big Grassy
Jones Mountain
Gladstone Ridge
Mineral Basin
Mineral Creek
Morgans Gulch
Emma Burr Mtn
Sawmill Hill
Woodchuck Cr
Chalk Creek
Lake Gulch
Popular Gulch
Coal Camp Can
Sheep Canyon
Weldon Gulch
Grouse Canyon
Deer Canyon
Baldwin Gulch
Grizzly Gulch
Chrysolite Mtn
Wildcat Gulch
Tunnel Gulch
Pomeroy Mtn
Stonewall Mtn
Chapman Mtn
Williams Mtn
Browns Creek
Browns Creek Trail
Sand Creek
South Sand Creek
Mill Gulch
Cedar Gulch
Squaw Creek
Jennings Cr
McCoy Cr
South Arkansas River
Lost Creek
Placer Gulch
Weldon Gulch
Blank Gulch
Dry Creek
Maxwell Creek
Prince Creek
Silver Creek
Chiquita Gulch
Spruce Creek
Robey Gulch
Green Timber Gulch
Jonesy Gulch
Grassy Gulch
Sawmill Gulch
Chalk Creek
Middle Fork
South Fork
Arkansas River
Denver
Buckhorn Cr
Robbins Cr
Conno Creek
McClure Cr
Fowlers
Short
Middle
Fork
Basin
Creek
Gulch
Mountain
Peak
Lake
Pass
Park
Hill
Mtn
Pk
Cr
Gul
Canyon
Reservoir
Tunnel
Hot Springs
Summer Cabin
Tramway Cabin
Electronic Site
Rest Area
Cem
Hydroelectric Plant
Trail
Old Alpine Tunnel
R 81W
R 80W
R 79W
R 7E
R 6E
R 5E
North
THIRD
STANDA
13544
1405
1368
1366
1386
1385
1407
1408
1409
13375
12784
8338
209
210
211
212
214
233
238
239
240
251
254
255
256
257
266
267
273
278
285
125
14
24
82
285
NO1
NO2
WD

Segment Cottonwood Creek — Fooses Creek

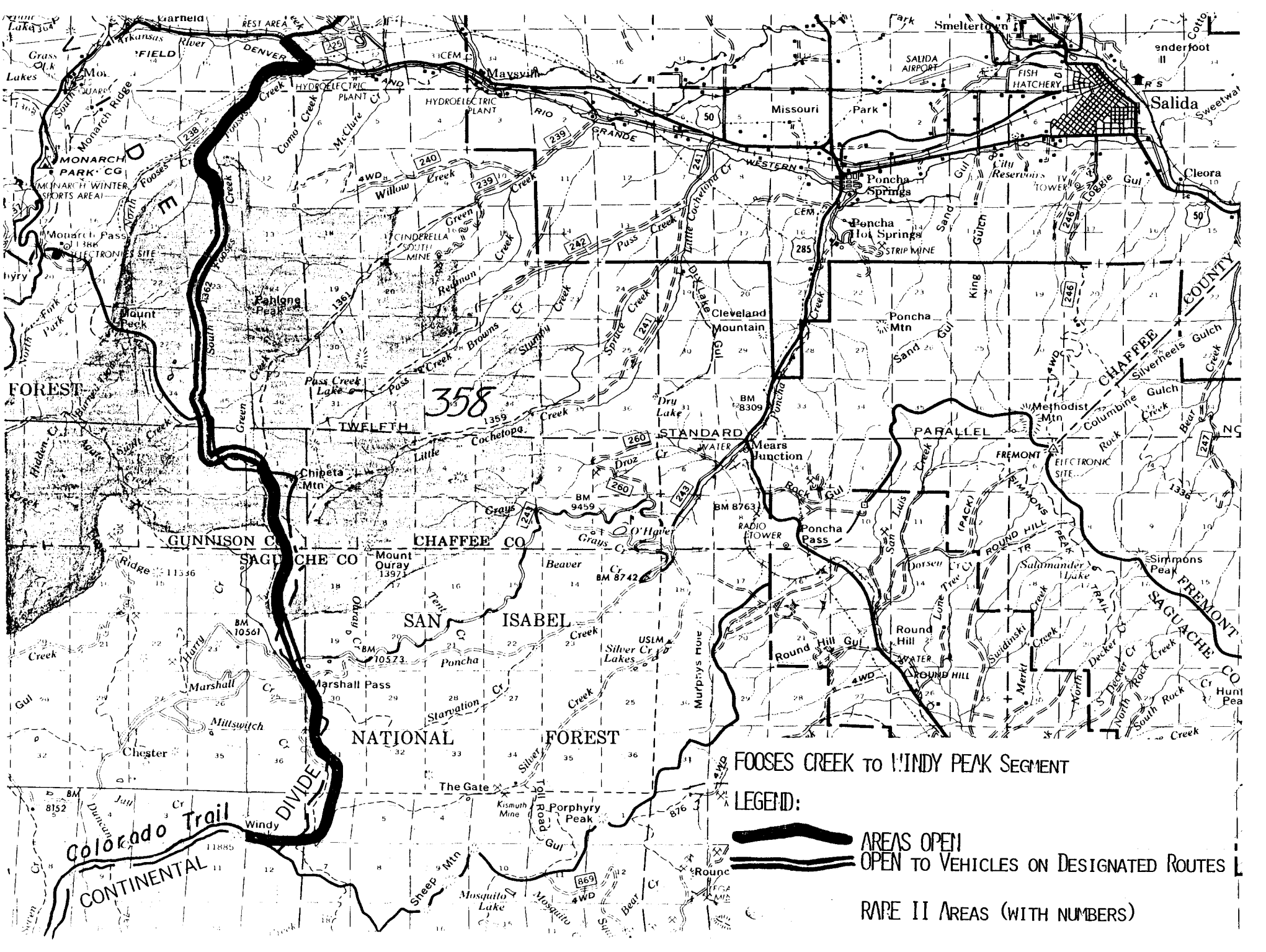
Pike-San Isabel National Forest

Description:

Trail runs South from Cottonwood Hot Springs at the 8500-9500 foot elevation, crossing Chald Creek, Brown Creek and No. Fork South Arkansas River and hits the Monarch Pass Highway, US 50, at the Fooses Creek Rest Area, 4 miles west of Maysville. Side trips can be taken to upper elevations towards Mr. Princeton, Mount Antero and Mount Shavano. Trailheads are planned at Cottonwood Hot Springs, Mt. Princeton Hot Springs, Fourmile Creek and Fooses Creek Rest Area.

	Miles				
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	22	5	6		11
Non N.F. Land	3½	2			1½
TOTAL	25½	7	6		12½
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness		Area Open 25*	F.S.	3½	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.		Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	25				
III-Rustic		*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban	½				
V-Urban					


FOOSES CREEK to WINDY PEAK SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREAS OPEN
OPEN to VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
Colorado Trail
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
358
TWELFTH STANDARD PARALLEL
GUNNISON CO
CHAFFEE CO
SAGUACHE CO
FREMONT CO
SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FOREST
Salida
Poncha Springs
Poncha Hot Springs
Mears Junction
Poncha Pass
Marshall Pass
Monarch Pass
Mount Ouray
Chipeta Mtn
Cleveland Mountain
Poncha Mtn
Methodist Mtn
Round Hill
Simmons Peak
Salamander Lake
Porphyry Peak
The Gate
Windy
Chester
Millswitch
Mount Peck
Pahlone Peak
Monarch Ridge
Sheep Mtn
Mosquito Lake
Pass Creek Lake
Dry Lake
Silver Cr Lakes
Cinderella South Mine
Strip Mine
Kismuth Mine
Toll Road
Fooses Creek
Willow Creek
Pass Creek
Grays Cr
Beaver Cr
Marshall Cr
Starvation Cr
Silver Creek
Poncha Creek
Sand Gulch
Rock Gulch
Round Hill Gulch
Columbine Gulch
Silverheels Gulch
Missouri Park
Salida Airport
Fish Hatchery
Smeltertown
Monarch Park CG
Monarch Winter Sports Area
Monarch Pass Electronic Site
Fremont Electronic Site
Radio Tower
Water Tower
Reservoirs
Cemetery
Arkansas River
Rio Grande Western
Denver
Garfield
Maysville
Hydroelectric Plant
Como Creek
McClure Creek
Little Cochetopa Cr
Cochetopa Creek
Green Creek
Browns Creek
Stumpy Creek
Spruce Creek
Dixie Lake
Renman Cr
Hidden Cr
Agate Creek
Silent Creek
Harry Creek
Duncan Cr
Jail Cr
Droz Cr
Tenl Cr
Murphys Hole
Lone Tree Creek
Swidinski Creek
Merkl Creek
Decker Cr
North Rock Creek
South Rock Creek
Bear Creek
Sand Gulch
King Gulch
Rock Gulch
Round Hill Gulch
Toll Road Gulch
Mosquito Gulch
Bear Cr
Hunt Peak
Grass Lake
Oak Lakes
Lake 36
Cottonwood Pass
Sweetwater
Cleora
Cobble Gulch
Tower
Reservoirs
Dorsey
Trail
Peak
Ridge
Creek
Gulch
Cr
Fork
North Fork
South Fork
Park Cr
Pass
Lake
Mountain
Hill
Lakes
Water
Electronic Site
Strip Mine
Cemetery
Hydroelectric Plant
Rio Grande Western
Arkansas River
Denver
Garfield
Maysville
Salida
Poncha Springs
Poncha Hot Springs
Mears Junction
Poncha

Segment Fooses Creek to Pike-San Isabel National Forest

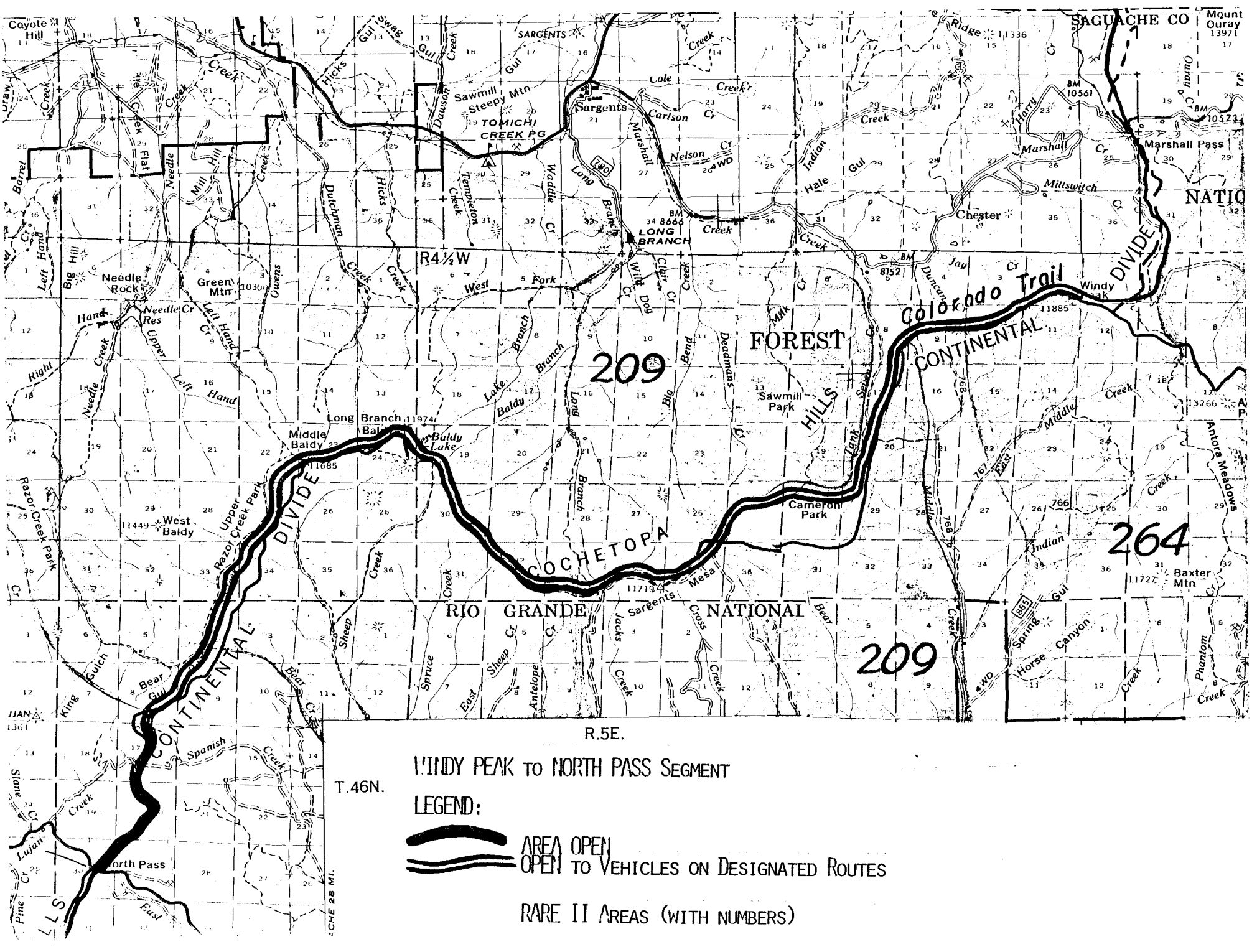
Windy Peak

Description:

Trail climbs from Fooses Creek Rest Area up South Fooses Creek to the Continental Divide, then follows the Divide south through Marshall Pass to Windy Peak. Upper portion runs between 10,000 to 11,000 feet, Colorado Trail coincides with Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from pass at head of South Fooses Creek to Windy Peak (9½ miles). Trail Crosses RARE II Area #358. Trailheads planned at Fooses Creek Rest Area and Marshal Pass.

		Miles			
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	9			5	4
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	8½	7			1½
Non N.F. Land	1½	1			½
TOTAL	19	8		5	6
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives		Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
I-Wilderness		Area Open	12*			
		Mot. on Desig Routes	7*	F.S.	1½	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.			19			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	15	*Colorado Trail Closed to Motorized vehicles except				
III-Rustic	4					
IV-Semi.Urban						
V-Urban						


R4½W
R.5E.
T.46N.
209
264
FOREST
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
Colorado Trail
COCHETOPA HILLS
RIO GRANDE NATIONAL
Marshall Pass
Sargents
Chester
Windy Peak
Cameron Park
Sawmill Park
Long Branch
Middle Baldy
West Baldy
Needle Rock
Green Mtn
Baxter Mtn
Antora Meadows
Razor Creek Park
Upper Razor Creek Park
North Pass
Tomichi Creek PG
Long Branch
Baldy Lake
Sargents Mesa
SAGUACHE CO
Mount Ouray
WINDY PEAK TO NORTH PASS SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREA OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)

Segment Windy Peak to GM-Unc-Gunn National Forest

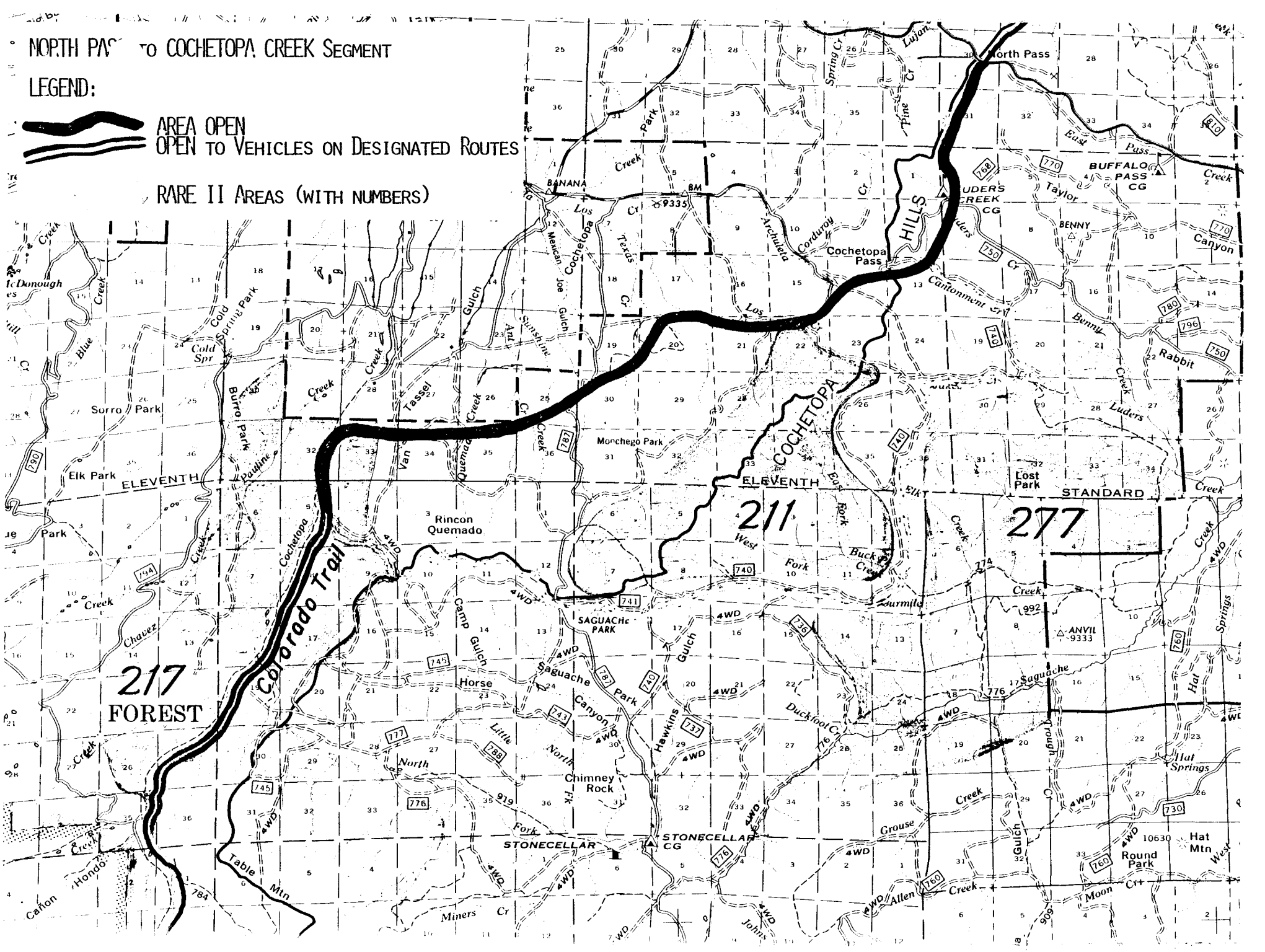
North Pass

Description:

Trail follows Continental Divide west from Windy Peak into Cameron Park, Sargents Mesa Long Branch Baldy and then south to North Pass. Most of ivide is between 11,500 and 12,000 feet, creeks and North Pass at 10,000 feet. Entire segment coincides with Continental Divide National Scenic Trail corridor. Trailheads are planned at Marshall Pass, Long Branch and North Pass. Trail passes through RARE II Area #209.

		Miles			
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	10		10		
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	13	2	3	4	4
Non N.F. Land					
	23	2	13	4	4
Commercial Timber	18½				
Domestic Grazing	10				
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives		Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
I-Wilderness		Area Open	3*			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.		Mot. on Desig. Routes	20*			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	~~26~~ 23		23			
III-Rustic		*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except				
IV-Semi.Urban						
V-Urban						


NORTH PASS TO COCHETOPA CREEK SEGMENT
LEGEND:
AREA OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
North Pass
BUFFALO PASS CG
LUDERS CREEK CG
Cochetopa Pass
HILLS
COCHETOPA
ELEVENTH
STANDARD
211
277
217
FOREST
Colorado Trail
Rincon Quemado
Monchego Park
Elk Park
Sorro Park
Lost Park
SAGUACHE PARK
Saguache
Horse
Chimney Rock
STONECELLAR
STONECELLAR CG
Hat Springs
Round Park
Hat Mtn
ANVIL 9333
BENNY
BANANA
Table Mtn
Miners Cr
Canon
Hondo
Creek
Gulch
Park
Canyon
Pass
Cr

Segment North Pass to GM-Unc-Gunn National Forest

Cochetopa Creek

Description:

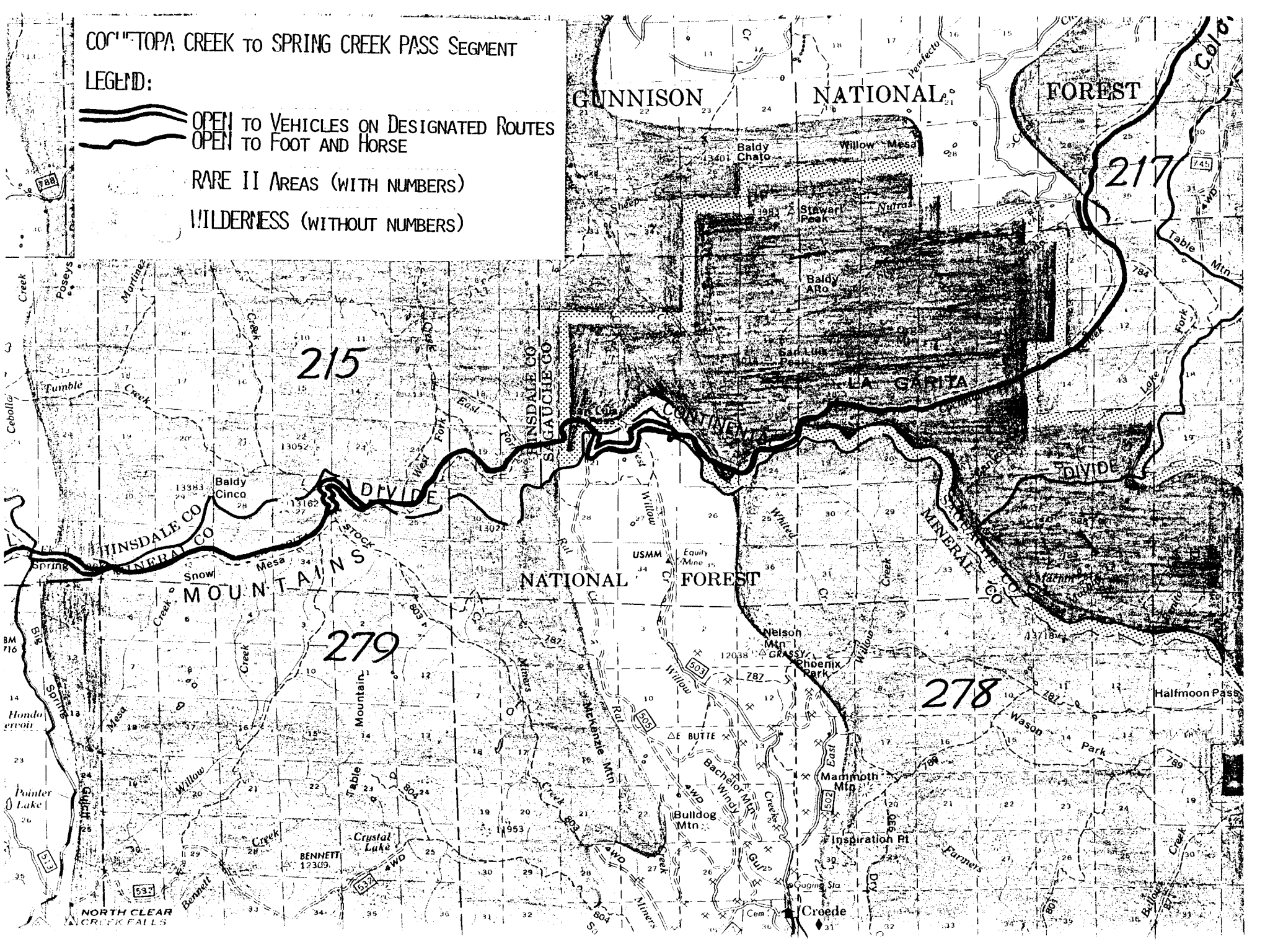
Trail runs south from North Pass to Luders Creek CGd, then follows old stagecoach road and primitive road systems to Van Tassel Gulch where it then turns west to Cochetopa Creek and follows up Cochetopa Creek to Eddysville trailhead. Area is rolling, high plateaus between 10,000-10,500 feet. Trail passes next to RARE II Areas #211 and passes through #217. Trailheads are planned at North Pass, Cochetopa Pass and Eddysville, 4 miles coincide with the proposed ontinental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	8½		6½		2
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	14			9	5
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL	22½		6½	9	7
Commercial Timber	22½				
Domestic Grazing	22½				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives
-Wilderness		Area Open 22½*
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.		*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except _____
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	22½	
III-Rustic		
IV-Semi.Urban		
V-Urban		

Rights-of-Way	By	Exist	Needs
		None	


COCHETOPA CREEK TO SPRING CREEK PASS SEGMENT
LEGEND:
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
OPEN TO FOOT AND HORSE
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
WILDERNESS (WITHOUT NUMBERS)
GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST
217
215
279
278
NATIONAL FOREST
MOUNTAINS
HINSDALE CO
SAGUACHE CO
MINERAL CO
CONTINENTAL DIVIDE
LA GARITA
Baldy Chato
Willow Mesa
Stewart Peak
Baldy ARo
San Luis Peak
Baldy Cinco
Snow Mesa
Nelson Mtn
GRASSY
Phoenix Park
Halfmoon Pass
Wason Park
Mammoth Mtn
Inspiration Pt
Bulldog Mtn
BUTTE
McKenzie Mtn
Bachelor Mtn
Windy
Crystal Lake
BENNETT
12309
NORTH CLEAR CREEK FALLS
Creede
Pointer Lake
Table Mtn
Equity Mine
USMM
Gauging Sta
Cem

Segment Cochetopa Creek to GM-Unc-Gunn National Forest

Spring Cr. Pass

Description:

Trail runs up Cochetopa Creek from Eddysville into La Garita Wilderness and San Luis Pass, then west along Continental Divide across Snow Mesa and down to Spring Creek Pass. Most of segment is between 11,000 and 12,000 feet. Entire segment coincides with Continental Divide National Scenic Trail location. Trailheads are planned at Eddysville, and Spring Creek Pass. Trail Passes through RARE II Areas #215, #217 & #279.

		Miles			
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness	9		8	1	
RARE II	14		8	6	
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	1½		1½		
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL	24½		17½	7	
Commercial Timber	3				
Domestic Grazing	20				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

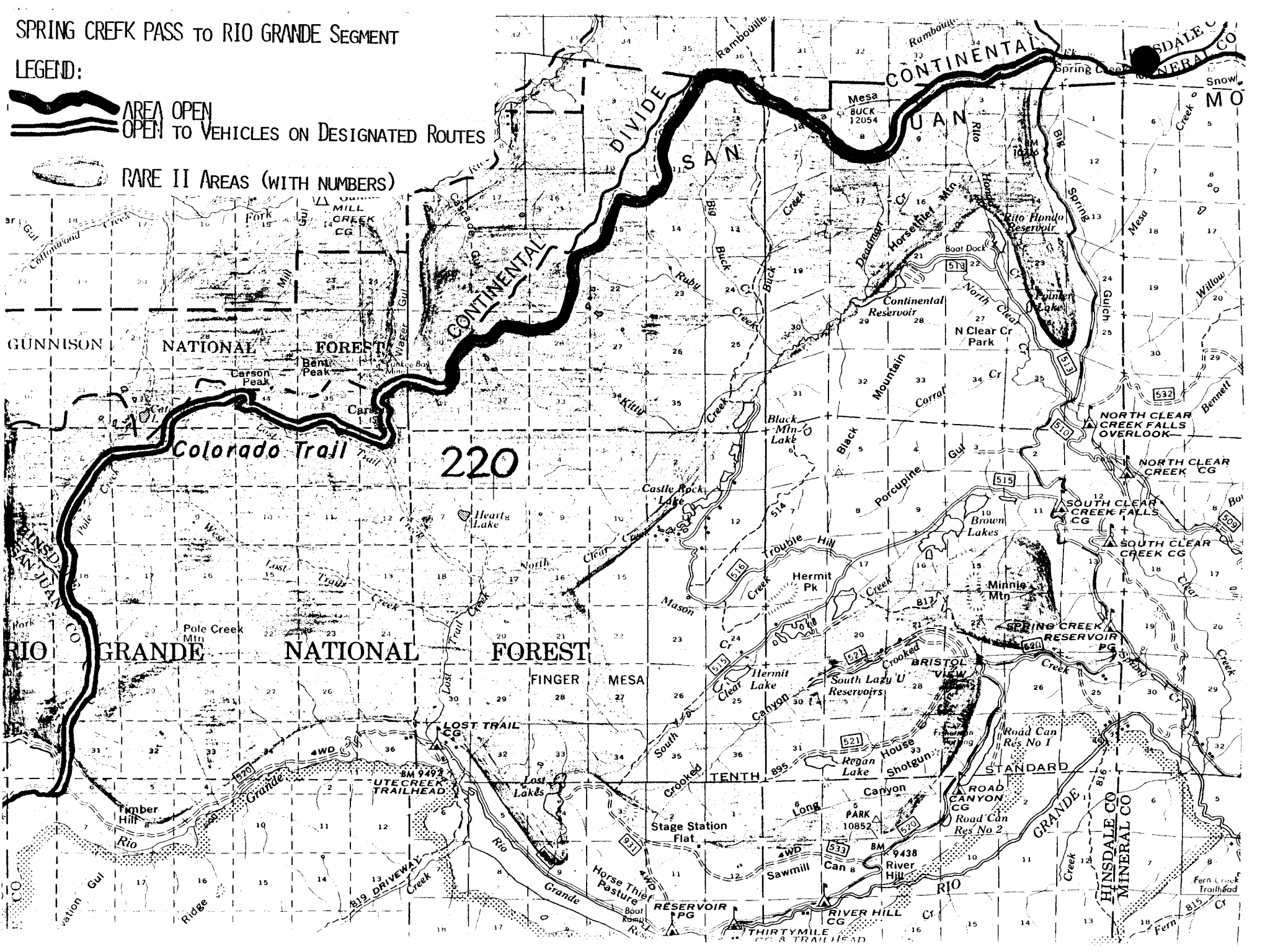
Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives		Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	9	Mot. on Desig. Routes *				
		Foot & Horse Only	24½		none	
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	15½					
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized		*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized vehicles except _____				
III-Rustic						
IV-Semi.Urban						
V-Urban						

SPRING CREFK PASS TO RIO GRANDE SEGMENT

LEGEND:

AREA OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES

RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)



Segment Spring Creek Pass to Rio Grande National Forest

Rio Grande River

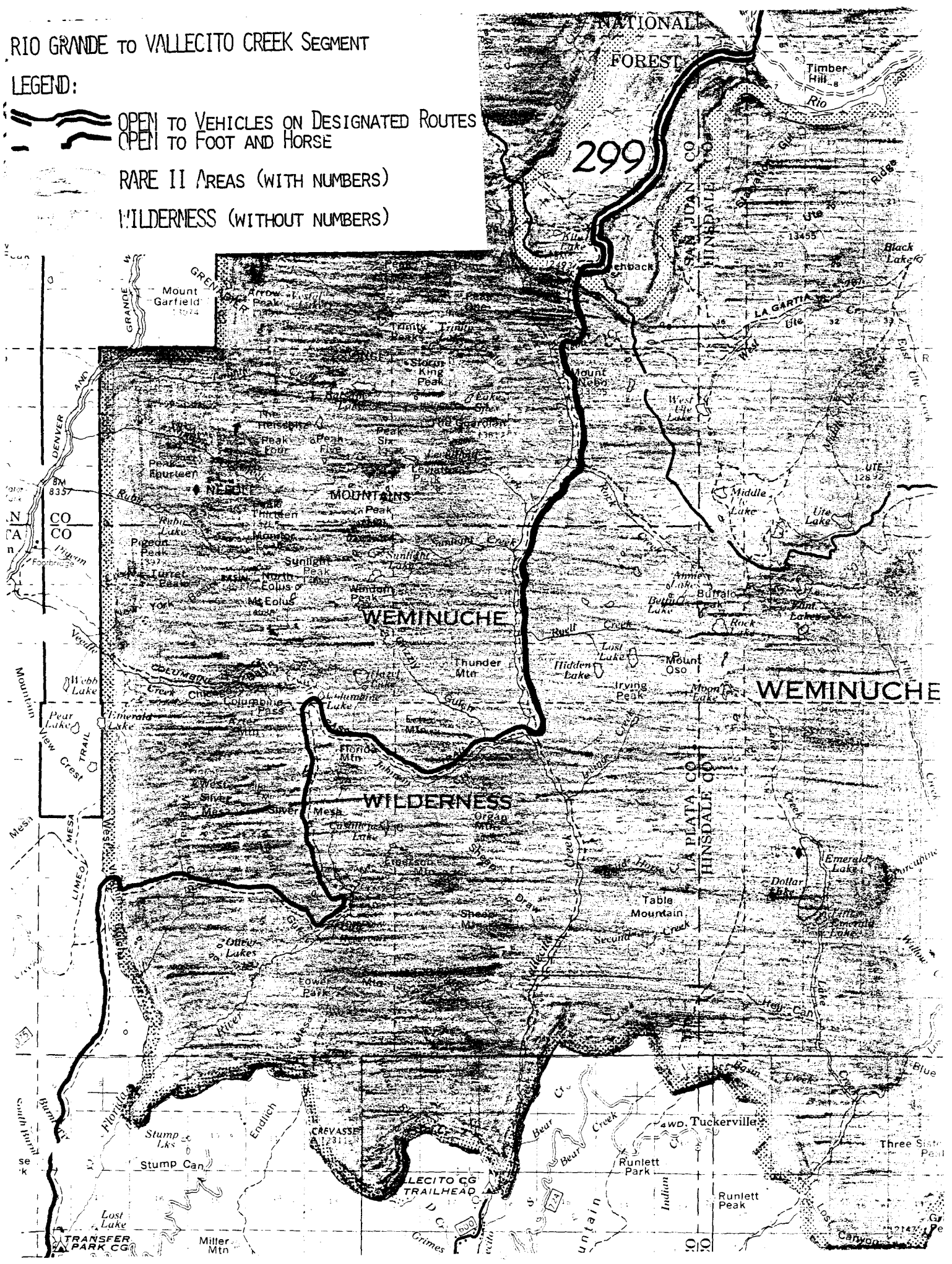
Description:

Trail climbs from Spring Creek Pass to Jarosa Mesa and then SW along Continental Divide to Cataract Lake, then down Pole Creek to Rio Grande River. Continental Divide portion is 12,000 to 13,000 feet, dropping to 11,000 feet at Rio Grande River. Trail passes through RARE II Area #220. Corridor coincides with Continental Divide National Scenic Trail from Spring Creek Pass to Cataract Lake (23 miles). Trailheads are proposed at Spring Creek Pass and Lost Trail CGd.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II	29			29	
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	½	½			
Non N.F. Land	1½			1½	
TOTAL	31	½		30½	
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives		Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
I-Wilderness		Area Open	12*			
		Mot. on Desig. Routes	19*	F.S.		1½
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.			31			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	31	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except				
III-Rustic						
IV-Semi.Urban						
V-Urban						


RIO GRANDE TO VALLECITO CREEK SEGMENT
LEGEND:
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
OPEN TO FOOT AND HORSE
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
WILDERNESS (WITHOUT NUMBERS)
NATIONAL FOREST
299
WEMINUCHE
WILDERNESS
WEMINUCHE
Mount Garfield
Timber Hill
Rio
Ute
Black Lake
LA GARITA
Mount Oso
Table Mountain
Emerald Lake
Dollar Lake
Runlett Park
Runlett Peak
Tuckerville
Stump Lake
Stump Can
Lost Lake
Miller Mtn
TRANSFER PARK CG
TRAILHEAD
Three Sisters
Canyon
Middle Lake
Lite Lake
Buffalo Peak
Thunder Mtn
Irving Peak
Moon Lake
Florida Mtn
Silver Mesa
Organ Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Tower Park
Pigeon Peak
Turret Peak
Sunlight Peak
Windom Peak
Mt Eolus
North Eolus
Jagged Mtn
Pear Lake
Emerald Lake
Webb Lake
Columbine Lake
Aztec Mtn
Vestal
Rock Lake
Hidden Lake
Lost Lake
Annies Lake
Flint Lakes
Otter Lakes
Crevasse
Mount Lobo
Trinity Peak
Storm King Peak
Arrow Peak
Peak Four
Peak Five
Peak Six
Peak Seven
Peak Thirteen
Peak Fourteen
Leviathan Peak
Rubio Peak
Rubio Lake
Sunlight Creek
Rock Creek
Ruwell Creek
Columbine Creek
Florida River
Hilton Mesa
Endlich Mesa
Burnt Timber
Bear Creek
Indian Creek
Crimes Creek
Blue Creek
Basin Creek
Hope Can
Lime Mesa
Mesa Verde
Mountain View Crest Trail
Continental Divide Trail
Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad
Footbridge
Grenadier Range
Needle Mountains
San Juan Co
Hinsdale Co
La Plata Co
Ute Ridge
Ute Creek
Rock Creek
Lost Canyon
Willow Creek
Porcupine Creek
Second Creek
Hope Can
Blue Creek
Basin Creek
Bear Creek
Indian Creek
Crimes Creek
Florida River
Hilton Mesa
Endlich Mesa
Burnt Timber

Segment Rio Grande River to Rio Grande - San Juan National Forest

Vallecito Creek

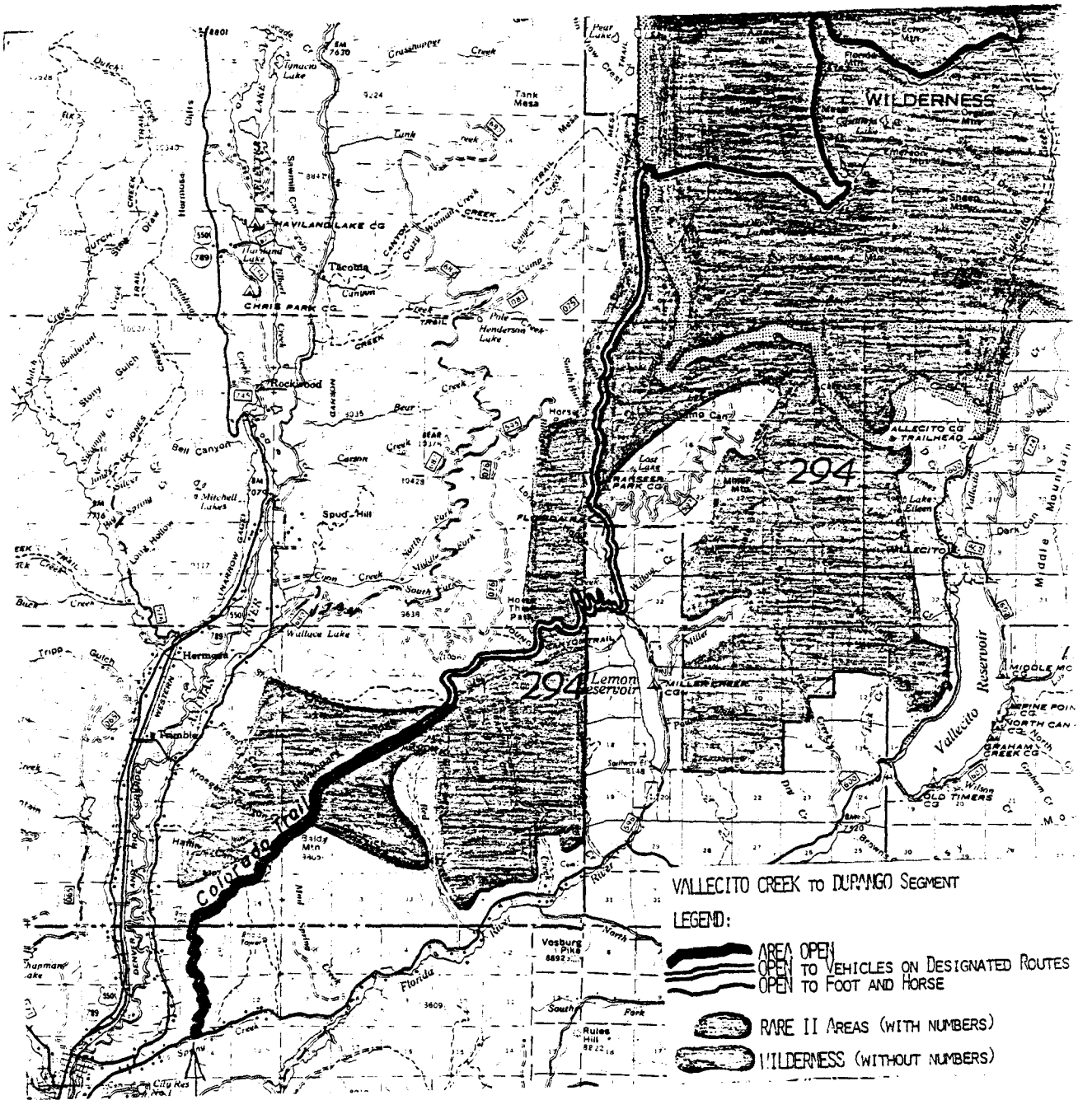
Description:

Trail climbs from Rio Grande River up Bear Creek to Hunch back Pass, enters the Weminuche Wilderness at Hunchback Pass then drops down Vallecito Creek to Johnson creek. Trail climbs from 10,000 feet to 12,500 at Hunchback Pass then drops to 9,500 feet in Vallecito Creek.

There is a possible side trip to the Animas River at Elk Park. Trailheads are planned at Lost Trail CGd and at Vallecito Campground, 8½ miles on down Vallecito Creek.

	Miles				
		Existing Satisfactory		Existing	Non-Exist.
Area Allocation	Total	Roads	Trails	Re-const.	New-const.
Wilderness	9½		9½		
RARE II	5½	4½	1		
Other Sp.Areas	½	½			
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL	15½	5	10½		
Commercial Timber	—				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.		Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	9½	Mot. on Desig Routes 6*			
		Foot & Horse Only 9½		None	
		15½			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.					
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	6	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except _____			
III-Rustic					
IV-Semi.Urban					
V-Urban					


WILDERNESS
294
Lemon Reservoir
Vallecito Reservoir
Colorado Trail
Tank Mesa
Tacoma
Rockwood
Hermosa
Trimble
Bell Canyon
Spud Hill
Wallace Lake
Florida
Vallecito
VALLECITO CREEK to DURANGO Segment
LEGEND:
AREA OPEN
OPEN TO VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED ROUTES
OPEN TO FOOT AND HORSE
RARE II AREAS (WITH NUMBERS)
WILDERNESS (WITHOUT NUMBERS)

Segment Vallecito Creek to San Juan National Forest

Durango

Description:

Trail climbs from Vallecito Creek, up Johnson Creek to Columbine Pass, then down to City Reservoir and west to West Virginia Gulch where it leaves the Weminuche Wilderness. It then drops south to Lemon Reservoir and up to Missionary Ridge, then down Missionary Ridge to Spring Creek and on to Durango.

Final terminus of trail has not been determined but an Animas Trails Foundation is working on it. Trail climbs from 9,500 feet in Vallecito Creek to 13,000 feet at Silver Mesa and down to 6,500 feet at Durango. Trail passes through RARE II Area #294. Trailheads are planned at Vallecito CGd, Transfer Park CGd and Spring Creek near Durango.

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
lderness	11		11		
RARE II	14½	½	7	4½	2½
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land	6	1		3½	1½
Non N.F. Land	12	2	2½	2½	5
TOTAL	43½	3½	20½	10½	9
Commercial Timber	?				
Domestic Grazing	?				
Wildlife Habitat	?				

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	
Wilderness	13½
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	23
.I-Rustic	3½
IV-Semi.Urban	3
V-Urban	½

Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives

Area Open	13½
Mot. on Desig. Route	16½
Foot & Horse Only	13½
	43½

*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except _____

Rights-of-Way

By	Exist	Needs
BLM	2	
County	10	
	12	

100 miles of the Colorado Trail coincide with the alignment of the proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. If the Continental Divide National Trail is established by Congress, these segments will be managed to meet the National Scenic Trail objectives. However, these segments can remain as a part of the Colorado trail.

____miles of primitive roads have been included. These are receiving very little vehicle use and the recreation experience would differ very little in quality from that extended by the trail segments. Parallel trail system will be developed only as required through the land management planning process or when the recreation experience is materially affected by conflicting uses.

Connecting trails are identified to allow using the Colorado Trail in shorter segments. It is anticipated that the 1 to 3 day loop trips will be the most common useage of this system. Side trails are identified from the Colorado Trail to interest areas, scenic areas and camping areas. Connecting and side trails are essential to meet the Colorado Trail goals. Existing connecting and side trails are included as part of the system. Additional connecting and side trail possibilities may be identified through land management planning.

The Colorado Trail system is proposed as an all-season system including use for winter activities. All Colorado Trail segments, including connecting and side trails, will be evaluated for potential and suitability as snow trails. Additional segments may be added just for their winter use potential.

1. Land Allocation

The Colorado Trail passes through a variety of areas from classified wilderness to fully roaded corridors. Table 6 summarizes the mileage by area allocation.

Table 6 - Colorado Trail Mileage By Area Allocation

	Miles				
Forest	Classified Wilderness	Inventoried RARE II Areas	other Special NF Areas	other NF Areas	Non NF Areas
Pike & San Isabel		59½		87½	18
White River		14	5½	10	11
GM-Unc-Gunn	9	33½		19	½
Rio Grande		34½		23	2
San Juan	20½	14½		6	12
TOTAL	29½	156	5½	145½	43½

Segments within classified wildernesses will be managed to meet the wilderness objectives. These segments will provide educational opportunities involving wilderness management as well as recreation opportunities in a wilderness setting. RARE II areas will be managed to protect their wilderness character until congressional decisions are reached. Other National Forest resource management objectives will be considered in the management of the Colorado Trail.

Travel Management Plans also affect the experience that can be expected along the Colorado Trail. Table 7 summarizes the uses permitted along the Colorado Trail.

Table 7 - Motorized Uses Permitted by Travel Management Plans along Colorado Trail

	Miles			
	Areas Open	Motorized on Designated Routes	Motorized Use Areas w/Colorado Trail Closed	Foot & Horse Only
Pike & San Isabel	90%	40½	?	34
White River	22	18½	?	
GM-Unc-Gunn	12½	28½	?	21
Rio Grande	34½	25	?	
San Juan	13½	16½	?	23
TOTAL	173	129	?	63

In Areas open to motorized vehicles on designated routes or open only to snowmobiles, the Colorado Trail will be closed to motorized use where this is practical and feasible. It is also desireable to allow only non-motorized use on the Colorado Trail in areas open to all vehiclar use where this is possible. Consideration needs to be given in feasibility of administering the restrictions. Seasonal restrictions may be possible in some of these open areas. Changes in permitted motorized use will be made through revisions in the travel management plans. Public involvement will be included in processes to make changes in permitted use prior to making the changes.

2. Trail Standards

Trail standards will be tailored to accomplish management objectives. The areas are being managed to provide specific recreation and educational experiences. These recreation objectives are used to define trail design and construction criteria, maintenance objectives and control techniques, as shown in Appendix B. The Colorado Trail will be developed utilizing this concept in location, design and management. Specific standards will be developed through the site-specific environmental assessment process.

The "Guide for Mountain Trail Development"is a reference for the field application of the above principles. It was developed by the Forest Service and Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc.

The guide will be utilized for projects to be accomplished by Forest Service, by contracts and by volunteers.

Snow trails require additional considerations in location, design, safety and management. Segments considered for winter use will be managed according to the planning, design and maintenance guidelines of snow trails included in Appendix C.

3. Trail Facilities

a. Trailheads

Trailhead facilities will be provided at points where hikers and riders gain initial access or exit the Colorado Trail system. Facilities will vary in size and makeup according to location, access and estimated use. Trailheads may include space for parking vehicles, stock loading ramps, hitchracks and/or corrals, water and sanitary facilities and camping accomodations. Trailheads for those portions of the system used in the winter will be designated to facilitate snow plowing and winter use. Facilities to be provided will be determined by a case-by-case assessment.

Trailheads are considered developed sites and their design and construction will be according to the planning process in FSM 2331. R2 Supp. No. 62. The narrative design report must describe the capacities and facilities needed using criteria for meeting management objectives and capacities of the accessed area.

38 trailheads have been identified for the Colorado Trail system.

b. Campsites

Land management plans will define camping objectives, campsite design criteria and camping restrictions. The effects of the Colorado Trail system on user patterns will be considered in these plans. Campsites will be located off the main trail whenever possible.

c. Signing

Signing on the Colorado Trail will be according to the Forest Service Sign Handbook, FSH 7109.11. The Colorado Trail will also include identity markers. The identity marker will be the double peak logo used by the Colorado Mountain Trail Foundation, Inc. The "Trail Marking System for the Colorado Trail" will be used as a guide (Appendix D).

d. Hostels and Huts

The Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc., have proposed posed a system of hostels and huts as part of the Colorado Trail system. Hostels and huts are generally considered a convenience facility, but in some cases may provide a different recreation experience or needed resource protection. The potential for hostels or hut operations will be considered in the land management planning process. Proposals for new structures will not be accepted outside this process.

4. Rights-of-Way Land Acquisition

Table 8 gives the breakdown of the right-of-way situation on non-National Forest lan d over which the Colorado Trail passes.

Table 8 Rights-of-Way Summary

	Forest Service			County	
	exist	needed	BLM	exist	needed
Pike & San Isabel					
White River					
GM-Unc-Gunn					
Rio Grande					
San Juan					
TOTAL					

On BLM and County lands, rights-of-way exist or will probably be designated by the public agency through cooperative agreements where the route is a part of the National Forest trail system.

Public trail access across private lands exists or will be secured using the same methods as described above. The rights acquired should be the minimum necessary to permit adequate public access and to preserve the integrity of the trail and to the extent possible the quality of the trail experience.

5. Trail Establishment

Table 9 gives the current situation in establishment of the Colorado Trail. Over ___% of the trail is now existing but _____ miles require reconstruction.

Table 9 - Colorado Trail Establishment
Present Situation

	Miles			
	Satisfactory		Exist.	Non-Exist.
	Roads	Trails	Reconst	Const.
Pike-San Isabel	33½	81	8	42½
White River	9½	9	½	21½
GM-Unc-Gunn	5½	16	28½	12
Rio Grande	20	1	30½	8
San Juan	3½	30	10½	9
TOTAL	72	137	78	93

The following is a guideline for setting priorities for completion of the Colorado Trail system. These priorities may need to be adjusted to take advantage of volunteer commitments ans support capabilities.

Forest Service Priorities

a. Correct identified safety and resource damage problems on the existing system.

b. Construct missing links in the system so it can be used.

c. Construct critical trailheads where there are current problems with access, parking or lack of facilities.

d. Reconstruct trail segments to meet management objectives and location and design standards.

e. Construct and reconstruct other facilities and connecting and side trails to meet management objectives.

6. Educational Opportunities

Part of the Colorado Trail concept is to provide information and educational opportunities. These efforts will give volunteers and users a greater awareness and appreciation

of cultural heritage, the environment, and natural resource management. These opportunities need to be identified and much greater attention given to informing the public of them. Close coordination is necessary between the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc., and the Forest Service in the development of informational and educational objectives, methodology and materials.

7. Volunteer Participation

Involvement of volunteers is an integral part of the Colorado Trail concept. The volunteers work under the authority of the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972.

The Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc., recreates and assigns volunteer workers and leaders to the Ranger Districts. Volunteers must be screened for suitability and leaders trained. A designed blend of work production, education and recreation is important to provide the volunteer with a satisfying experience and ensure success of the project.

Other organizations and individuals also participate in Colorado Trail projects and may not be coordinated through the Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc. The Colorado Mountain Club and the Boy Scouts of America have both participated extensively in volunteer projects along the Colorado Trail. These efforts are handled by direct Forest Service liaison on a District by District basis.

A Forest Service employee will be assigned to oversee each volunteer project, to provide technical advice and ensure the project is accomplished as planned and qpproved.

Written specifications and standards will be developed by the Forest Sevice. Pre-work field reviews and completion reviews will be made jointly by the Forest Service and the volunteer leader.

8. Trail Administration

Field operations and administration of the Colorado Trail System will be handled by the Districts involved. The Ranger works with the direction and guidelines provided by the Forest Supervisor. Forest Coordinators will coordinate Colorado Trail activities on each National Forest. The Regional Coordinator will facilitate communications and coordination between Forest and cooperators.

Much of the Colorado Trail effort is being accomplished by volunteers. The Forest Sevice will identify those projects that can be accomplished by volunteers. Volunteer projects and coordination needs will be included as part of the program development and budgeting process.

Non Federal Financial Support

(to be developed by foundation)

THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES TO THE CURRENT DIRECTION ARE CONSIDERED.

ALT. B. Different Trail Locations

Several different trail locations are considered. The present route should be considered tentative. Final corridor selection will be made following this assessment. Specific trail and facility locations will be determined by site-specific project environmental assessments.

Other major corridor location that were considered are shown in Figure C and include:

1. Bypassing Waterton Canyon.
2. Follow Continental Divide from Georgia Pass to Tennessee Pass.
3. Follow proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail location from Tennessee Pass through Monarch Pass.
4. Route on west side connecting Gunnison with system.
5. Three routes to bypass the Valleceto Creek area of the Weminuche Wilderness.
   a. West from Hunchback Pass, across Animas River around Twin Sisters Mountain, down Cascade Creek, up East Fork Animas River, along Divide and then down Junction Creek to Durango.
   b. Same as "a" to East Fork, then across top of Hermosa Cliffs, across Animas River below Rockwood and along County right-of-way to Durango.
   c. South from Spring Creek Pass to Rio Grande Reservoir, up Squaw Creek, southwest to Valleceto Reservoir and Durango, parallelling existing highway.
   d. South from San Luis Pass to Creede, up to Continental Divide at South River Peak and west along Continental Divide to route "c".

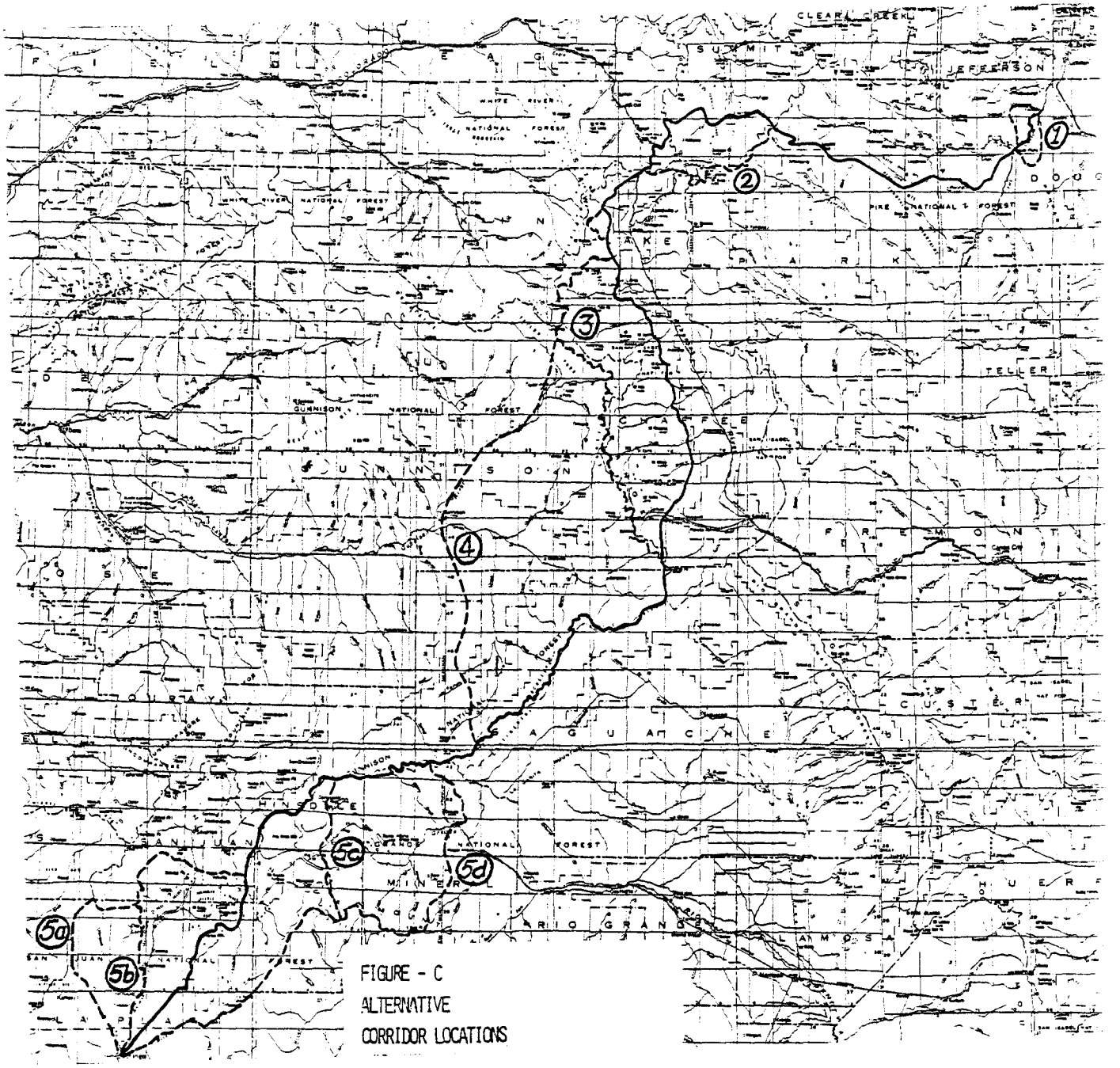


FIGURE - C
ALTERNATIVE
CORRIDOR LOCATIONS

Alternative B-1

Pike - San Isabel National Forest

Waterton Bypass

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber TOTAL					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
III-Rustic				
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-1

Waterton Bypass

Pike - San Isabel
National Forest

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
...lderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber TOTAL					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Rights-of-Way Exist	Rights-of-Way Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-2 — Pike - San Isabel National Forest

Divide from Georgia Pass to Tennessee Pass

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
...ilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber (TOTAL)					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Rights-of-Way Exist	Rights-of-Way Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-2 — Pike - San Isabel National Forest

Divide from Georgia Pass to Tennessee Pass

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Area Open			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	Motorized on Designated Routes			
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-3

Pike - San Isabel and G.M., Unc., & Gunn. National Forest

Description: Divide from Tennessee Pass through Monarch Pass

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-3

Pike - San Isabel and G.M., Unc., & Gunn. National Forest

Divide from Tennessee Pass through Monarch Pass

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Rights-of-Way Exist	Rights-of-Way Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Area Open			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	Motorized on Designated Routes			
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-4 — G.M., Unc., & Gunn. National Forest

West Side - through Gunnison

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber (TOTAL)					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Area Open			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	Motorized on Designated Routes			
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-4

G.M., Unc., & Gunn. National Forest

West Side - through Gunnison

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Roads	Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Iderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber TOTAL					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5a

San Juan National Forest

Hermosa & Junction Creek

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Iderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5a

San Juan National Forest

Hermosa & Junction Creek

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber TOTAL					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Rights-of-Way Exist	Rights-of-Way Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5b

San Juan National Forest

Hermosa Cliffs

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber	TOTAL				
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5b

San Juan National Forest

Hermosa Cliffs

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber TOTAL					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Rights-of-Way Exist	Rights-of-Way Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
III-Rustic				
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5c

Rio Grande and San Juan National Forest

Squaw Creek

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Roads	Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
Commercial Timber	TOTAL				
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
III-Rustic				
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5c

Squaw Creek

Rio Grande and San Juan National Forest

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Satisfactory Roads	Existing Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Iderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Area Open			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized	Motorized on Designated Routes			
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban	_____			
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5d

Rio Grande and San Juan National Forests

Creede

Description:

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Roads	Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
Wilderness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
III-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban				
V-Urban				

Alternative B-5d

Rio Grande and San Juan National Forest

Creede

Changes from Current Direction

Miles

Area Allocation	Total	Existing Roads	Satisfactory Trails	Existing Re-const.	Non-Exist. New-const.
derness					
RARE II					
Other Sp.Areas					
Other N.F. Land					
Non N.F. Land					
TOTAL					
Commercial Timber					
Domestic Grazing					
Wildlife Habitat					

Rec. Mgt. Obj.	Planned Travel Mgt. Objectives	Rights-of-Way By	Exist	Needs
Wilderness	Foot & Horse Only Area Open			
IIa-Semi-Prim.Non-mot.	Motorized on Designated Routes			
IIb-Semi-Prim.Motorized				
Iii-Rustic	*Colorado Trail closed to Motorized Vehicles except			
IV-Semi.Urban	_____			
V-Urban				

ALT. C. Locating Colorado Trail Totally Outside Wilderness

Establishing the Colorado Trail completely outside classified Wilderness was considered. The proposed route passes through the LaGarta and Weninuche Wildernesses. After RARE II recommendations are made to Congress, more Wildernesses could be established.

ALT. D. Different Trail Standards

The trail standards are designed to be the minimum necessary to accommodate the projected use and to meet the management objectives and desired recreation experience level. The standards are variable and are trailored to meet the management objectives of the areas the trail is passing through. An alternative considered is to designate a specific standard for the entire length of the Colorado Trail.

ALT. E. Different Mix of Use Activities

Considering the Colorado Trail as an all-purpose trail with motorized uses permitted or excluding horse use and having the Colorado Trail system for hikers and skiers only is considered. Currently, the planned mix is one of hikers, horse back riding and Cross country skiing.

ALT. F. Connecting Colorado Trail System with other Population Centers

Some thought has been given to extending the Colorado Trail System to other population centers - south to Colorado Springs and Pueblo, west to Grand Junction and north to Laramie and possibly extending Mesa Verde National Park.

V. EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION

A. Current Direction

Effects of identifying the Colorado Trail are already evident along those segments presently existing. It has increased use resulting in some deterioration of the trail tread because of increased erosion and sedimentation. Littering, vandalism and sanitation problems have been caused by some users. Proper management with adequate funding can reduce these impacts to relatively insignificant levels. The Forest Service has ample authority to control any trail use inconsistent with proper resource management. Action can and should be taken when problems are identified changes in trail location and management can be made through the land management planning process.

Four types of impacts can be anticipated:

1. Impact on Fish and Wildlife

Since the trail corridor is narrow and ____% is already existing, the addition of the remaining segments would have a small impact on fish and wildlife. The trail could have an impact on the habitat of the American peregrine falcon but the degree of impact will probably be quite low. The golden eagle and pine marten are sensitive species which are susceptible to habitat destruction.

The time of greatest sensitivity for most species is usually during the breeding and young bearing seasons--in the early spring or late fall. The trail will receive little use during these periods. Proper management with protective controls can further reduce the impacts where necessary.
(Note: need specific information on impacts and effects for final draft)

2. Disturbance to Soil and Vegetation

The Colorado Trail will follow existing pathways for ____%of its length and development will be limited to upgrading to meet proposed standards and to corrective actions to solve erosion problems. Construction of the non-existing segments will have some effect as will construction of the trailhead facilities. Exact quantities are unknown. Trail development disturbance would be confined to the immediate treadway which is 24"or less. Trailhead disturbance would be on 2-4 acre areas and impacts would be reduced by avoiding the use of heavy equipment whenever possible.

Use of the trail will impose some continuing impact on the vegetation. Increased horse and people impacts are anticipated with resultant wear and tear and solid waste problems. Grazing by pack and saddle stock could lead to problems if overgrazing occurred. Proper management and control can prevent these problems.

The trail crosses some fragile lands. Wilderness values need to be protected for those segments within Wildernesses.

Other lands involved would continue to be subject to current management provisions and to the direction developed during the land management planning process. In the event of conflicting policy, should such occur, the most restrictive provisions would apply.

3. Increased Recreation Use

Visitor use will vary according to proximity to population centers, accessibility of the trail, proximity to recreation developments, attractiveness of the area, and length of use seasons. Some segments of the trail are already heavily used, while use on other segments will remain relatively light for years to come. The Colorado Trail will provide a system that will help disperse recreation use away from concentration and heavy use areas. Present use of the trail has not been determined but it is estimated to be less than 30,000 visitor days per year.

Identification of the Colorado Trail will increase public recognition which will result in increasing recreation use. Estimated use of the proposed Continental Divide Scenic Trail in Colorado is 380 visitor days per mile of trail per year. The Colorado Trail will not reach this level, but will perhaps reach 250-300 visitor days per mile of trail per year. This will increase the use level 3-4 times above the present level.

The potential for overuse exists. Special emphasis needs to be given to Wilderness values. Management plans and controls can keep use levels and impacts within tolerable limits. Alternative locations can be designated to relieve problem areas.

Recreation use impacts of littering, fire risk and vandalism are anticipated. Operation and maintenance plans can correct these matters. Visitor impacts on water quality and wildlife are not likely to be significant. With adequate operation and maintenance, the types of proposed recreation uses - hiking and horseback riding - do not have significant impacts on the natural environment. Overuse of the resource resulting in significant environmental degradation is not expected.

4. Economic and Social Impacts

It will cost an estimated $____ to implement this proposal. These costs are summarized in Table 10. Annual operation and maintenance costs will be $____ as shown in Table 9.

Table 10 - Costs to Complete Colorado Trail (without Volunteers)

	Rights-of-Way		New Const		Reconst		Trailheads	
	Miles	$	Miles	$	Miles	$	#	$
Pike-SanIsabel	10	$350,000	42½	$510,000	8	$48,000	21	$315,000
White River	11	385,000	21½	258,000	½	3,000	6	90,000
GM-Unc-Gunn			12	144,000	28½	171,000	4	60,000
Rio Grande	2	70,000	8	96,000	30½	183,000	4	60,000
San Juan	10	350,000	9	108,000	10½	63,000	3	45,000
TOTAL	33½	1,172,500	93	1,116,000	78	468,000	38	570,000

Table 11 - Operation and Maintenance Costs

Colorado Trail wo/Volunteers

	Trail Maint.				Disp. Rec.	
	Level II		Level III		& Wild O&M	
	Mi.	$	Mi.	$	Ac	$
Pike-San Isabel			16.5		3960	
White River			40½		970	
GM-Unc-Gunn	9		53		1490	
Rio Grande			59½		1430	
San Juan	20½		32½		1270	
TOTAL	29½		350½		9120	

The Colorado Trail conforms to present management plans. Little effect will be felt on other resources, such as timber production or domestic grazing, because of this designation. Trends in use on the Colorado Trail will parallel other dispersed recreation use and these impacts will be considered in the land management planning process. These effects are not estimated but significant changes are expected.

Designation of the Colorado Trail may result in economic benefits to the communities and areas along the trail. Benefits would include direct expenditures for goods and services by the recreationists and indirect expenditures resulting form the expansion of services and facilities.

Social benefits of the Colorado Trail include the increased recreation and educational opportunities that are provided.

Emphasis on educational persuits and volunteer efforts will result in additional social and economic benefits. These programs will provide a greater environmental consciousness and a greater involvement, awareness and appreciation of resource management principles and programs. These benefits should be felt in public response to future resource management issues.

Current Direction - Favorable Environmental Effects

The Colorado Trail will help meet Forest Service recreation objectives of giving emphasis to providing additional dispersed recreation opportunities. This system will provide an estimated 100,000 - 150,000 recreation visitor days of use. This is 3-4 times the amount presently using the existing portion of the system.

Completion of the Colorado Trail will correct problems due to deficient maintenance. The trail and facilities will be constructed to the standard anticipated by the using public and needed to protect the areas. This emphasis on the Colorado Trail system will aid in assuring continued operations and maintenance funding to keep up the system, manage the use and meet management objectives.

The benefits of increased opportunities for education, participation and awareness are significant favorable social effects. This may be the strongest justification for this proposal.

The Colorado Trail will provide an alternative for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to reduce impacts on that system. The Colorado Trail is lower, too, and has a longer use season.

Current Direction - Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot be Avoided.

All disturbances of soil and vegetation associated with trail and facility development are considered adverse and unavoidable. Other types of impacts from visitor use are considered to be controllable or containable with proper management.

— Even with proper care and management, there are some adverse environmental effects which would occur, including:

— Some soil and vegetation would be disturbed, especially in the development of trailheads.

— Some wildlife, generally small mammals, would be lost at the trailheads.

— The threat of fire cannot be fully mitigated and could pose a danger the dry monthes.

— Even with the best management, some littering and air, noise and water pollution will occur. With good management practices, pollution will not be significant.

— At some time restrictions on visitor use may be needed to keep use consistent with management objectives and to protect the resources. Alternative trail locations and other measures will be considered before restricting use.

ALTERNATIVES TO CURRENT DIRECTION.

ALT. B. Different Trail Locations

1. Bypassing Waterton Canyon

(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

Several routes have been reviewed that would bypass Waterton Canyon. This is because of Denver Water Board ownership and restrictions and the proposed Foothills and Two Forks water storage projects. Two Forks is quite remote and trail facilities would probably be amortized before Two Forks would be built.

Trails to the west of Waterton Canyon could tie in with the Jefferson County trail system. They would be primarily on private land and there are some wildlife considerations with Bighorn sheep and elk. The route east of Waterton Canyon could tie in with Kassler or with Rozborough State Park. Some conflict with private subdivisions is expected. Also motorized use at the north end of Rampart Range would be in conflict. Both routes are hot, dry and rocky and would require a climb of 2,500 feet in elevation and then drop back down to South Platte.

Waterton Canyon is the heaviest used portion of the Colorado Trail now by hikers and bikers. It is a unique, scenic feature so close to Denver. Educational opportunities abound. Stipulations in the Foothills project will assure public access through the Canyon. Wildlife viewing, especially Bighorn sheep, and fishing are also important recreation activities in the Canyon.

2. Follow Continental Divide from Georgia Pass to Tennessee Pass.
(Insert summary of changes form current direction)

This route would follow the proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The route is high with much between 11,000 and 12,500 feet. The area is very scenic, but fragile. The route would pass through the Climax mine operations.

The proposed route drops into Breckenridge and Copper Mountain and provides extensive winter ski touring opportunities. Some use of public road right-of-ways would be made and the route would pass through the town of Breckenridge.

3. Follow proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail location from Tennessee Pass through Monarch Pass
(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

This alternative would follow the proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail for some 250 miles. This is an extremely scenic portion of the Continental Divide and use is quite heavy. The route stays high and is above 10,000 feet for most of the distance.

The lower route has a longer snow-free season. The topography will allow winter activities on many segments. More access to existing developed recreation sites is realized.

4. Route on west side connecting Gunnison with system.
(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

This route crosses to the west side at Lake Pass on the proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, then drops down the Taylor River to Gunnison and back up to Spring Creek Pass. Over 4,500 feet in elevation and would be lost dropping to Gunnison which would then be regained. 25-30 miles of private and BLM land would be crossed.

This location has good opportunities for winter activities, but present use levels are low.

The route has potential as a winter alternate. The proposed Colorado Trail location is more attractive as a summer route.

5. Bypass the Vallecito Creek area of the Weminuche Wilderness.

Most of the discussion on routing of the Colorado Trail has centered around how best to get through the Weminuche Wilderness. The proposed route crosses Hunchback Pass and drops into Vallecito Creek then up Johnson Creek and on to Durango. The Vallecito drainage is the most heavily used portion of the Wilderness and is accessed from Vallecito Reservoir. Use is estimated to be _____ recreation visitor days annually in this portion of the Wilderness.

Four major routes have been looked at as alternatives to the proposed route:

a. Hermosa and Junction Creek

(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

This route drops west from Hunchback Pass down to the Animas Park at Elk Park, a drop of about 3,500 feet in elevation. It then climbs back up and swings around Twin Sisters Mountain, then down Junction Creek to Durango. Existing trail systems would be used for the most part. About ____ miles of right-of-way and ____ miles trail construction would be needed to bring the route into Durango. Cost of rights-of-way and protection is estimated to be between _____ and _____.

A winter system of trails and huts has been proposed for this area that would tie in with the Purgatory Ski Area.

b. Hermosa Cliffs

(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

Same as "a" to Purgatory Ski Area, then across the top of Hermosa Cliffs, then across the Animas and down County right-of-way to Durango.

c. Squaw Creek - Los Pinos River

(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

This route runs south from Spring Creek Pass, crosses the Rio Grande River below the Rio Grande Reservoir, goes up Squaw Creek and down to Vallecito Reservoir to the south of Los Pinos River. The route crosses the Vallecito Dam and parallels the road systems to Durango.

The route goes through less used portions of the Weminuche Wilderness and mileage within the Wilderness would be cut in half.

The route is 10 miles longer than the proposed route and would involve 33 miles of new construction as compared to 9 miles on the proposed route. 25 miles is on private land, most parrallel to the road system between Vallecito Reservoir and Durango. It is estimated these rights-of-ways would cost $888,000 to $900,000. The construction would cost an additional $250,000 to $300,000 if not done by volunteers.

d. Creede - South River Peak - Continental Divide to route "c".

(Insert summary of changes from current direction)

This route drops south from San Luis Pass to Creede, then back up, past Spar City, to South River Peak. It then runs west along the proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to tie in with route "b" at the head of Squaw Creek.

This route is an additions 25 miles longer than route "b" and runs along the proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail for 20 miles. It also has the disadvantage of right-of-ways and new construction between Vallecito and Reservoir and Durango.

C. Locating Colorado Trail Totally Outside Wilderness

This would lengthen the Colorado Trail an estimated 40-50 miles to bypass the LaGarita and Weninuche Wildernesses. Rights-of-way and development costs will be increased accordingly using this direction.

It is likely that additional adjustments would be necessary when RARE II recommendations are acted on by the Congress.

D. Different Trail Standards

Trail standards less than proposed would not serve the projected users and may result in increased resource damage. Increased standards would raise costs and not provide the intended recreation experience level. A uniform standard would not be appropriate since the Colorado Trail includes segments where bikes are permitted, Waterton Canyon, as well as the wildernesses where primitive development is called for.

ALT. E. Different Mix of Use Activities

Should additional motorized use be authorized on the Colorado Trail, increased use conflicts would be expected. (Some motorized use as presently allowed on segments of the trail). This alternative could not be implemented inside classified Wilderness.

Should horse use be excluded, one of the primary user groups in the system, and a group that helped develop the concept, would be eliminated.

ALT. F. Connecting the Colorado Trail System with Other Population Centers

These have not formally been rpoposed and are not considered in this analysis. Extension of the Colorado Trail system to these areas would require a separate environmental analysis.

VI. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives are compared to the current direction using the evaluation criteria from section III as follows:

	1 Continuous Route	2 Variety of opportunities	3 Connecting and side Trails	4 Disperse Rec. Use	5 Volunteer Participation	6 Recognize mgmt. obj. land mgt. plans	7 Land capabilities	8 Existing trails used	9 Cost effectiveness	Total
B. Different Locations.										
1. Waterton Canyon	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	-2	-1	0
2. Cont. Divide George-Tenn. Pass	+1	-2	-1	+1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-5
3. Cont Div. NST-tenn-Monarch Pass	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	-2	0	+2	-6
4. Connect w/Gunn	0	+1	0	+2	+1	-1	0	-2	-2	-1
5. Vallecito Bypass										
(a) Junction Cr	-1	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+1	-2	-2	+3
(b) Hermosa Cliffs	-2	+1	0	+2	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+2
(c) Squaw Cr	-1	-1	0	+2	0	+1	+1	-2	-2	-2
(d) South River Peak	-2	-1	0	+2	0	+1	+1	-2	-3	-4
C. Outside Wilderness	-2	-2	0	-1	0	+2	+1	-2	-2	-6
D. Diff. Trail Standards	0	-2	0	0	0	-2	-1	-1	+2/-2	-4/-
E. Diff. Use Activities	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-1	0	0	-4
F. Connecting other Centers, not evaluated at this time.										

+3 strong favorable effect

0 no effect

-3 strong adverse effect

ALT. B. Different Locations

Several of the alternative locations do not favorable meet the evaluation criteria. These are less cost/effective, do nto provide the variety of opportunities, or tend to concentrate recreation users. Two alternatives warrant futher consideration:

ALT. B.

1. Waterton Canyon Bypass

Waterton Canyon will be closed during construction of the Foothills project. Horse use may be restricted following construction, additional routes in this area would allow increased loop possibilities close to the Denver population cneter. These loops would tie in with the State trail system.

These alternates are on dry, hot, steep, rocky hilsides. Rattlesnakes are prevalent.

Recommend developing alternate route(s) around Waterton Canyon only as the need indicates. Colorado trail will be considered through Waterton Canyon. It may be closed during Foothills construction.

ALT. B.

5a and 5b. Junction Creek Alternative and Hermosa Cliff Alternative.

These alternatives would route the Colorado Trail away from the Vallecito Creek drainage of the Weminuche Wilderness. It would increase the length of the Trail by about 10-15 miles with an additional cost of $400,000 to $500,000 for rights-of-way and construction.

Additional winter activities could be provided

The snow trails could be tied in with the Purgatory Ski Area.

These alternatives would reduce impacts on the wilderness resource and disperse use away from the heavily used portion of the Weminuche Wilderness. It would reduce the wilderness mileage by 2/3 leaving only the La Garita segment in the Colorado Trail System.

Having Wilderness segments in the Colorado Trail system would have the advantages of providing the full spectrum and variety of recreation experiences. Additional educational opportunities would be provided and a greater awareness of wilderness management would be achieved. It is felt that a properly managed trail system could meet wilderness objectives.

ALT. C. Locate Colorado Trail Outside Wilderness

This alternative would greatly lengthen the Colorado Trail and increase the cost of establishment. The desired variety of recreation experience's would not be provided. With this direction, RARE II decisions would probably result in further rerouting to bypass wildernesses.

ALT. D. Different Trail Standards

The proposed trail standards best meet management objectives and user expectations.

ALT. E. Different Use Activites

This was conceived as a horse and hiker system. Motorized use is permitted on some segments of the Colorado Trail. Portions of the Trail are on primitive roads and will not be relocated until traffic reaches a level that will affect the recreation experience expected.

Additional restrictions are anticipated as use increases. Use restrictions will be developed through the land management planning and travel management planning processes.

ALT.F. Connecting other Population Centers

Any proposals for extension of the Colorado Trail system to other areas would be handled by a separate environmental assessment.

VII. FOREST SERVICE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The decision for future direction and corridor location for the Colorado Trail will be made following review of this draft of the Environmental Assessment Report.

The Regional Forester's decision will be included in the final Environmented Assessment Report.

VIII. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Project, site-specific environemental assessment will be completed prior to construction. This report should be considered a corridor analysis and the final trail location determined by the project analysis.

All historic and archeologic sites will be identified according to Executive Order 11593. Necessary serveys will be conducted prior to any development.

Land Management Plans and Wilderness Management Plans will recognize the existence of the Colorado Trail. The location, standards and administration of the Colorado Trail will be made to correspond with the objectives of these plans. This may mean selecting alternative routes or placing restrictions following analysis.

Volunteer efforts will be planned and organized. Possible projects will be identified and standards determined. Forest Service coordination and technical assistance needs will be identified and included in the program development and budgeting process. Cooperative project operating plans will be developed with cooperators when appropriate.

The proposed trail will utilize existing travelways as much as possible. Where necessary, these existing trails will be upgraded, operated and maintained to standards commensurate with management objectives for the areas.

Segments of primitive roads may be utilized and parallel trail systems will be constructed only when recreation experiences are materially altered.

Traiheads will be designated to provide the basic services oriented solely to the trail user. They will be located at or near existing recreation facilities or existing manmade intrusions on the landscape. They would be sized and spaced so as to minimize or avoid congestion, overuse and adverse impact.

Segments of the Colorado Trail along with connecting trails will be analyzed for National Recreation Trail loop possibilities. These will be 1-3 day loops. Evaluation and establishment will be handled as an action separate from this proposal.

IX. CONSULTATION WITH OTHERS

The concept of the Colorado Trail evolved from a series of workshops held in 1973 the Forest Service with concerned individuals. The workshops were to discuss problems related to a lack of trail related opportunities. The problems noted included a lack of awarenss and support of Forest Service programs.

A determination was made to involve the useres of the trails to help correct some of the indentified problems. The Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation, Inc., was formed in May 1974 to work with the Forest. The Forest Service and the Foundation have worked together in developing the current direction.

Forest and Districts were involved in the selection of the present route. Engineering services were used in alternative route analysis. This environmental assessment report is being reviewed by the Forests involved and by the Regional Environmental Coordinating Committee.

This draft of the environmental assessment report has been sent to the following for comment. The comments will be considered prior to making a dicision:

(cont)

U.S. Dept. of Interior

Heritage and Cultural Resource Service

Colorado State

Division of Planning

Division of Wildlife

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

County Commissioners

Jefferson County

Donglas County

Park County

Summit County

Eagle County

Lake County

Chaffie County

Saguache County

Mineral County

San Juan County

La Plata County

Interested Organizations

Colorado Mountain Trails Foundation

Wilderness Society

Colorado Mountain Club

Colorado Open Space Council

Roundup Riders of the Rockies

X. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECT

____% of the Colorado Trail is already existing. Continuation of the current action and implementing this direction would have only minimal environmental effect. The Colorado Trail system would be managed in accord with land management plans as they are developed.

Therefore, it is determined an environmental statement and is not required to implement the proposed action.

XI. APPENDIX

CONTENTS

A. Outdoor Recreation Opportunity Catogories

B. Defining the Appropriate Trail

C. Snow Trails

D. Trail Marking System for the Colorado Trail

OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITY CATEGORY ASSOCIATED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND ACTIVITY CONSIDERATIONS

CATEGORY	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING & MANAGEMENT	SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING & MANAGEMENT	CHARACTERISTIC ACTIVITY PACKAGES
I Primitive	Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of a size or location that provides the opportunity for isolation from sights and sounds of man, and a feeling of vastness of scale. The user has the opportunity to be a part of the natural environment, often with a high degree of challenge and risk and to use a maximum degree of outdoor skills.	The area is managed to be optimumly free from evidence of man-induced restrictions and controls. Only essential facilities for resource protection are used and are constructed of on-site materials. No facilities for comfort or convenience of the user are provided. Spacing of groups is informal and dispersed to minimize contacts with other groups or individuals. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.	Viewing Outstanding Scenery Enjoying Unique and/or Unusual Environment Hiking Cross-country ski touring & snowshoeing Horseback Riding Canoeing Sailing Other nonmotorized Watercraft use Swimming Diving (Skin or Scuba) Fishing Photography Camping Snowplay Hunting (big, small game, upland birds & waterfowl Nature Study Acquiring General Knowledge & Understanding Unguided Hiking General Information
IIa Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized	Area is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment of a size or location that provides a good-to-moderate opportunity for isolation from sights and sounds of man. A feeling of vastness is important, but is not essential. The user has the opportunity for a high degree of interaction with the natural environment often with moderate challenge and risk, and to use a high degree of outdoor skills.	The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restriction may be present, but are subtle. Facilities are primarily provided for the protection of resource values and safety of users. On-site materials are used where possible. Spacing of groups may be formalized to disperse use and provide low-to-moderate contacts with other groups or individuals. Motorized use is not permitted.	
IIb Semi-Primitive Motorized	Area is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment of a size or location that provides a good-to-moderate opportunity for isolation from sights and sounds of man except for facilities essential for the use of motorized equipment. A feeling of vastness is important, but not essential.	The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Facilities are primarily provided for the protection of resource values and safety of users. On-site materials are used where possible. Spacing of groups may be formalized to disperse use and provide low to moderate contacts with other groups or individuals. Motorized use is permitted.	Same as above, plus the following: Motor-driven ice and snowcraft ORV touring Power boating

The physical and managerial settings described for the various segments of the recreation spectrum are considered as broad criteria necessary to assure the user of a given recreation experience opportunity. Settings suitable for opportunities on the primitive side of the spectrum also have the potential for providing opportunities on the urban side. The reverse is not usually true without prohibitively high costs. Page 3 shows the relative relationships of the recreation opportunity factors across the spectrum.

APPENDIX A

CATEGORY	PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING & MANAGEMENT	SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING & MANAGEMENT	CHARACTERISTIC ACTIVITY PACKAGES
III Rustic	Area is characterized by predominately natural environment with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of man. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment.	Opportunities for gregarious association with other relatively small groups is about equally important as the opportunities for high to moderate isolation from predominate sights and sounds of man. Controls and regimentation offer a sense of security and are on-site. Rustic facilities are provided for convenience of the user as well as for safety and resource protection. Moderate densities of groups is provided for in developed sites and on roads and trails. Low to moderate densities prevail away from developed sites and facilities. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities.	All of the activities mentioned in Classes I, IIa plus: Picnicking Gathering Forest Products Auto Touring Competition Games Water Skiing & Other Water Sports Automobile Camping Trailer Camping Ice Skating Viewing Interpretative Exhibits Guided Tours Viewing Interpretative Signs Scooter-Motorcycle Use Bicycling Organization Camping Lodges Power Boating Resort-Commercial Public Service Resort-Lodging
IV Semi Urban	Area or site is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Sights and sounds of man are evident. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are primarily to enhance specific recreation-activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil protection.	Considerable number of facilities, designed for use by large numbers of people. Controls and regimentation are obvious. Facilities are provided for special activities. Moderate to high densities of groups and individuals are provided for in developed sites, on roads and trails, and water surfaces. Moderate densities prevail away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available.	
V Urban	Area or site is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment although the background may be predominately natural. Sights and sounds of man, on-site, are predominant. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Soil protection usually accomplished with hard surfacing and terracing.	Considerable number of facilities designed for the use and convenience of large numbers of people and include electrical hookups and contemporary sanitation services. Controls and regimentation are obvious and numerous. Facilities are provided for special activities. High densities of people are predominate throughout the site. Facilities for highly intensified motorized use and parking are available with forms of mass transit often available to carry people throughout the site.	

RELATIONSHIP OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITY FACTORS ACROSS THE RECREATION SPECTRUM

APPENDIX A - page 3

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum	Modern Urbanized	Modified Natural	Semiprimitive	Primitive
Opportunity Factors:				
Relative availability	Abundant			Scarce
Reproducibility	Easily reproduced			Irreplacable
Use density	Concentrated		Dispersed	
Environment modification	Extensive modification	Somewhat modification	Limited modification	None
	Man-made features		Mostly natural	Pristine
Access	Easy	Moderately difficult	Difficult	Extremely difficult
	Freeway	Hard surface	Gravel Skid Road	Trails Cross-country
	Motorized		Non-motorized	
	Two wheel drive		Four wheel drive and cycle	Foot and horse only
	Maintained to Highway standards		Maintained to Primitive standards	
Facilities	Many comforts, conveniences	Minimum comforts conveniences	Safety and site protection	None
Space Requirements	Little space per person		Much space per person	
On-site mgt.	Many on-site changes	Limited site changes		No changes
	Very obtrusive		Unobtrusive	None
Other resource users	Very compatible on a large scale	OK on small scale		Incompatible
Social controls	Highly organized	Minimum organization		None

DEFINING THE APPROPRIATE TYPE OF TRAIL

Visitor Characteristics

Goal	Visitor Orientation	Setting Preference	Activity Preference
Type 1 Primitive	- Oriented toward using natural, unmodified environment for the appreciation and understanding of natural phenomena; as a source of intellectual and/or physical challenge, solitude and esthetic stimulation.	Places which contain interesting and/or challenging natural phenomena, stimulating to the senses, free of human influences, inaccessible to motorized vehicles & generally devoid of people.	Pursuits that require a high degree of self-reliance and woodsmanship skills needed to accomplish a goal. Activities are often physically demanding and stressful, such as mountain climbing, rock scrambling, ski mountaineering, bushwhacking, and orienteering.

Management Objectives and Techniques

Social Environment

- Preserve opportunities for challenge, solitude & physical achievement.
- Preserve opportunity to test degree of woodsmanship skill.
- Minimize hazard reduction.
- Minimize noise.
- Provide feeling of being part of nature.
- Preserve opportunity for maximizing individual decisions and individual accomplishments.

Resource Environment

- Visual - preservation.
- Soil - minimal disturbance by use and from minimum construction.
- Water - maintain high quality.
- Air - high quality.
- Wildlife - allow no stress and avoid key area.
- Flora - feature natural process.

Modes of Travel

- Snowshoe
- Ski
- Hike
- Horse

Density - Volume & Separation

- All low volume of use and low numbers of encounters.
- Provide a high degree of separation between:
  1. People
  2. Parties
  3. Hikers & horses

Design & Management Criteria

Design & Construction Criteria/Philosophy

- Construct some tread only to delineate the way in order to protect identified resource values.
- Construct some tread to correct poor location when established through use or when delineation of trail is necessary.
- Emphasize use of existing trails and some trails rather than constructing new trails.
- Instead of heavy construction/reconstruction to solve safety problems, relocate trails or eliminate use.
- Construct bridges & utilize footlogs to solve resource problems or achieve proper distribution only on major streams where crossing is not possible during the majority of use period.
- Utilize native materials.
- Trail will appear inconspicuous and harmonious with land.

Maintenance Objectives

- Level - 1 Resource Protection
- Level - 2 Protect Facility

Control Techniques

- Feature off-site techniques, minimum signing necessary for resource protection.
- Use maps & brochures.
- Implement permit system.
- Utilize off site techniques to guide and minimize blazing of trees.
- Use entrance control by constructing facilities or separate trails for different modes of travel.
- Install signs at trail head only.
- Do not blaze winter trails.
- Post degree of difficulty message at trail head.

APPENDIX B

Visitor Characteristics

Goal	Visitor Orientation	Setting Preference	Activity Preference
Type II Semi-Primitive a. nonmotorized b. motorized	- Oriented toward using natural or semi-primitive environment for enjoyment of the physical surroundings.	Places which contain interesting natural phenomena stimulating to the senses; nearly removed from human influences; difficult access with conventional motorized vehicles, if allowed; in which few people will be encountered.	Pursuits that require a substantial degree of self-reliance and woodsmanship skills; however, the hazards are generally modified or reduced. Activities are often mentally and physically demanding and include cross-country skiing, backpacking, hiking, and riding horses, trail bikes, and snowmobiles.

Management Objectives and Techniques

Social Environment	Resource Environment	Modes of Travel	Density - Volume & Separation
- Preserve opportunities for challenge, solitude & physical achievement. - Preserve opportunities to test a substantial degree of woodsmanship. - Minimize noise. - Remove or eliminate unusual hazards. - Provide a feeling of being close to nature. - Preserve opportunity to make individual decision and individual accomplishment.	- Visual - preservation/retention. - Soil - disturbed by construction - Water - maintain quality. - Air - high quality. - Wildlife - avoid key areas. - Flora - natural process.	- Snowshoe - Ski - Hike - Horse - Trail Bike * - Snowmobile *	- Low to medium volume of use and number of encounters. - Moderate degree of separation between nonmotorized users. - High degree of separation between motorized & nonmotorized users.

* motorized areas only

Design & Management Criteria

Design & Construction Criteria/Philosophy	Maintenance Objectives	Control Techniques
- In addition to delineation of the way, construct tread for acceptable level of safety for the user. Do not consider user convenience. - Construct bridges & utilize footlogs to solve resource problems or to achieve proper distribution when stream crossing is not safely possible during the majority of the use period. - Utilize native materials except where their use may unduly impact the construction site.	- Level - 1 & 2 Also maintain for user safety. groom snow - Do not maintain winter trails.	- Feature off-site techniques. - Some directional signing. - Use guide signs, markers, & blazing. - Some control signs to regulate types of use, season opening & trail conditions. - Mark winter ski & snowmobile trails or routes and trail heads. - Post degree of difficulty message at trail head.

APPENDIX B - page 2

Visitor Characteristics

Goal	Visitor Orientation	Setting Preference	Activity Preference
Type III ~~Semi-Developed~~ Rustic	- Oriented toward using semi-primitive lightly developed areas for relaxing in natural surrounding and/or as a source of tranquility and freedom from tension, and for esthetic stimulation	Places which contain interesting natural phenomena, stimulating to the senses, with some facilities for comfort and convenience. Somewhat removed from human influences, fairly easy access with conventional motor vehicles and uncrowded conditions prevailing.	Pursuits that require a moderate degree of self-reliance and woodsmanship skills with the hazards mostly eliminated. Activities often physically and mentally challenging, but are generally low stress and include all of the above plus casual hiking.

Management Objectives and Techniques

Social Environment

- Preserve opportunities for challenge & solitude.
- Preserve opportunities to test a moderate degree of woodsmanship skills.
- Allow some facilities to serve comfort and convenience needs.
- Eliminate most hazards.
- Minimize noise.
- Provide feeling of being close to nature.

Resource Environment

- Visual - partial retention
- Soil - disturbed by construction.
- Water - main quality.
- Wildlife - avoid key areas.
- Flora - accept some change.

Modes of Travel

- Snowshoe
- Ski
- Bike
- Horse
- Trail bike
- Snowmobile

Density - Volume & Separation

- Medium to heavy volume of use and number of encounters.
- Low degree of separation between nonmotorized users.
- High degree of separation between motorized and nonmotorized users.

Design & Management Criteria

Design & Construction Criteria/Philosophy

- In addition to delineation for resource protection and user safety, construct continuous tread for user convenience.
- Construct bridges and use footlogs for all of above reasons and also user convenience. Stress permanence and interrupted travel.
- Clear for winter trails.

Maintenance Objectives

- Level - 1, 2, 3
- Snow trails are not groomed.

Control Techniques

- Use direction signs, well marked trail.
- Control signs for separate modes of travel and seasonal openings.
- Post use condition occasionally.
- In winter use:
  - -Snowblazers with degree-of-difficulty signs.
  - -Control signs to separate motorized use from nonmotor use.
- Post degree of difficulty message at trail head.

APPENDIX B - page 3

Visitor Characteristics

Goal	Visitor Orientation	Setting Preference	Activity Preference
Type IV Developed Semi-Urban	- Oriented toward using moderately developed areas and surrounding environment for intentional social interaction.	Places which contain interesting natural features & development. Easy access by conventional motor vehicles and presence of other people is expected.	Pursuits that require a minimum degree of self-reliance, woodsmanship skills without hazard. Activities foster interaction with others and include any trail-related travel.

Management Objectives and Techniques

Social Environment

- Preserve some opportunity to test outdoor skills.
- Provide opportunity for interaction with others.
- Provide some opportunity for solitude.
- Maximize hazard reduction.
- Provide opportunity for being close to nature.
- Minimize noise.
- Provide opportunity for learning.

Resource Environment

- Visual - Maximum modification.
- Soil - disturbed by construction.
- Water - maintain quality.
- Air - moderate quality.
- Wildlife - close to buy areas.
- Flora - accept change.

Modes of Travel

- Snowshoe
- Ski
- Hike
- Horse
- Trail bike
- Snowmobile
- Bicycle

Density - Volume & Separation

- Heavy volume of use & encounters.
- High degree of separation between motorized and nonmotorized visitors.
- Separation of horse and bicycle travel.

Design & Management Criteria

Design & Construction Criteria/Philosophy

- See Type III; in addition, provide harder, more stable tread to accept heavier use and avoid user controls.

Maintenance Objectives

- Levels - 1, 2, 3 for summer trail
- Winter trails mark & groom

Control Techniques

- High degree of control is visible.
- Use direction & control signs.
- Interpretive signs.
- Use winter control techniques.
- Post degree of difficulty at trail head.

APPENDIX B - page 4

Visitor Characteristics

Goal	Visitor Orientation	Setting Preference	Activity Preference
Type V Modern Urban	- Oriented toward using highly-developed areas for social interaction with many people and for pursuits which allow for the expression of learned physical abilities.	Places which contain developments that facilitate active sports, and/or handicapped people. Easy access with conventional motor vehicles, and the presence of other people is expected. Attractive natural features may be highlighted.	Pursuits that require a moderate to high degree of learned sport skills that often provide high physical and emotional stress. Activities include alpine skiing, racing, bicycling, and interpretation.

Management Objectives and Techniques

Social Environment

- Preserve opportunity for handicapped.
- Minimize conflicts between activities.
- Preserve feeling of being next to nature.
- Maximize hazard reduction.
- Maximize opportunity for learning.

Resource Environment

- Visual - maximum modification.
- Soil - disturbed by construction.
- Water - maintain quality.
- Air - moderate quality.
- Wildlife - through key area with seasonal control.
- Flora - accept change.

Mode of Travel

- Snowshoe
- Ski
- Hike
- Horse
- Trail bike
- Snowmobile
- Bicycle
- Wheelchair

Density - Volume & Separation

- Heavy volume of use & encounters.
- High degree of separation between motorized and nonmotorized visitors.

Design & Management Criteria

Design & Construction Criteria/Philosophy

- Normally trails around recreation complexes.
- Provisions made for all types of users.
- Tread may be paved.

Maintenance Objectives

Level - 1, 2, 3

Control Techniques

- All techniques can be employed.

APPENDIX B - Page 5

APPENDIX C

7731 - TRAIL SYSTEM PLANNING.

7731.2 - Snow Trails. Snow trails are designated routes for over snow travel utilizing skis, snowshoes or snowmobiles. These trails are part of the Forest Development Trail System when they are designated on the Forest Transportation Plan.

Snow trails may occupy:

1. Components of the transportation system that are utilized for other purposes during snowfree portions of the year, or
2. Routes designated specifically for winter travel, or
3. A combination of the two.

Procedural guides for planning, design, construction and maintenance are included in the Trails Handbook FSH 7709.12. Guides for the signing of snow trails and their related facilities are contained in the Sign Handbook FSH 7109.11, chapter 50.

PLANNING GUIDELINES FOR SNOW TRAILS

I. General Criteria

A. The snow trail system will be designed to:

1. Combine compatible winter recreation activities, where possible, to allow optimum use of suitable facilities and services, and reduce costs.
2. Minimize conflicts among non-compatible winter recreation activities, recognizing that the presence of some activities detracts from the satisfactory experience being sought by users engaged in other activities.

3. Provide a full range of winter activities consistent with the constraints of location and topography.
4. Offer a range of challenge requiring different skills and be reasonably safe for the skill level required.
5. Avoid safety hazards.

B. Efforts will be made to inform and educate the winter recreation visitor about snow trails.

1. This effort will include Visitor Information Service at Forest Service offices, ski resorts, publications, radio and television, signs, and other appropriate media.
2. Information will be made available as to:
   a. what opportunities exist
   b. where these opportunities exist
   c. what can be expected from a given trail or area in terms of satisfying the visitor's recreation expectations.
   d. what skill levels may be required for safe travel
   e. what hazards exist to the winter recreationist (avalanche, hypothermia, etc.)

APPENDIX
C - page 3

II. Specific Criteria

A. Safety Hazards

1. Avoid avalanche hazard areas (generally slopes over 22°, 40%).
2. Avoid hazardous stream and lake crossings.
3. Avoid severe wind and drift areas.
4. Where possible, avoid locating a trail where rescue will be difficult.

B. Resources

1. Avoid trail construction in critical wildlife winter range.
2. Do not route trail through tree plantations where there is danger of damaging trees.
3. Marked trails will not be located in Wilderness or formally withdrawn watersheds.

C. Social

1. Do not route trail through winter or summer-home sites.
2. Where possible, locate trails convenient to lodges, ski area bases, plowed parking and snow play areas.

D. Scenic

1. The trail will be designed to take advantage of scenic points and natural attractions.

E. Variety

1. Provide a loop trail where possible to increase variety.
2. Vary the degrees of difficulty along the trail routes, (but classify the trail according to its highest degree of difficulty).
3. Offer a variety of classes of trails within a general use area.

APPENDIX C - page 5

313 - TRAIL SYSTEM PLANS

Specific Snow Trail Planning Guideline Definitions:

1. Ski Touring - Recreation skiing with nordic ski equipment. Nordic ski equipment is designed for travel in flat or rolling terrain. Boots are soft, bindings permit the heel to rise and ski bottoms (waxed, stepped or "fish scale") permit uphill travel on gentle grades.

2. Cross-country Skiing - Ski racing with specialized light nordic equipment.

3. Mountain Touring - Skiing off the beaten track with nordic equipment.

4. Ski Mountaineering - Skiing outside of developed ski areas with specialized alpine ski equipment that permits uphill travel.

Special, designated snow trails are seldom needed for mountain touring and ski mountaineering. An exception might be marked routes to popular winter mountaineering destinations.

Ski Touring Trails

Extreme hazards and the increasing interest in ski-touring has made it desirable to provide a system of marked National Forest ski touring trails. However, ski touring on the National Forest is not restricted to marked trails.

Location

1. Prime Factors. Safety, enjoyment, and resource coordination are prime factors in the location of trails to be used

by ski tourers. Variety is also of great importance. For variety, the trails should be located over undulating terrain.

2. Routing. Loop trails are preferable to dead end trails. One-way trails are often desirable to achieve a greater sense of solitude and trail variety and safety.

3. Parking. Trailhead parking for skiers must be provided off the main road to avoid hampering traffic flow and to provide safety to the skier. It is often necessary to coordinate the location of parking areas with the local authorities who have responsibility for snow removal.

Snowshoe Trails

The same attractions and hazards criteria for ski touring apply except that snowshoes are easier to maneuver on steep, descending terrain and in timbered areas.

322 - DESIGN

Ski Touring Trails

1. Terrain and Trail Tread Considerations. The optimum sustained grade for trail treads is 6-8% and the upper limit for enjoyable touring is 13-14%. The maximum allowable slope that should be traversed with a marked trail is 40%. Terrain steeper than this is subject to avalanche activity. Trails are rated according to the difficulty of the terrain based on percent of slope considerations. These ratings are a result of extensive input from ski touring instructors and guides throughout the country. Only the terrain is rated. It must be remembered that

as snow conditions change, the degree of travel difficulty can also change. The ratings are as follows:

a. Easiest Terrain. No downhill runs on slopes greater than 10%. Downhill sections of trails have a smooth tread and gentle, sweeping turns. Outruns at the bottom of downhill sections should be ample to allow the skier to slow down before making a turn. Trees, rocks, ditches, etc., are well clear of the trail especially on downhill sections. Uphill sections of trails have no more than 10% grade and are short.

b. More Difficult Terrain. Slopes can be as steep as 25% with trail turns less than 90 degrees and ample runout room for skiers who overshoot them to slow down or stop safely. Downhill sections of trails are not long enough to let skiers accelerate beyond controllable speeds. On long downhill runs, cleared turnout areas at intervals are available to allow skiers to stop and prevent excessive speed buildup. Up to 1/3 of the trail can be in uphill sections. Short climbs with grades approaching 25% may be used.

c. Most Difficult Terrain. Slopes can be as steep as 40%, but no steeper. Trails have more curves, narrower widths, and rougher tread surfaces can be tolerated. Up to 1/2 of the trail can be uphill. Special hazards (sharp curves leading past rocks or other obstacles, etc.) should be marked.

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2. Width. Minimum width for all ski-touring trails should be four feet to allow for freedom of movement and pole action. On grades over 10%, the trail treads should be a minimum of 10 feet wide to allow the skier to herringbone for climbing and snow-plowing for a controlled descent. On short steep pitches of 20% or or more the trails should be over 10 feet wide to allow room for the skier to side-step up or down. On trails where heavy two-way traffic is expected widths should be increased as needed to allow for safe passing. In these cases, loop trails or parallel one-way trails may be preferable if suitable terrain and space are available. Two-way trails should be signed in both directions.

Snowshoe Trails

1. Slope Considerations. 6-8% sustained grade is the optimum. 13-14% is the upper limit for enjoyable snowshoeing.

2. Trail Width. Six foot width is generally adequate.

APPENDIX C - page 9

340 - MAINTENANCE

Snow trails constructed during high snowfall years or prior to the snow being deposited, may need to be relocated during certain years to take advantage of snow in a more protected location.

Brush and windfalls must be removed within the clearing limits. Limbs weighted with snow and hanging down within seven feet of the snow surface should be removed or relieved of the weight.

Trail markers may have to be raised or lowered during the season as snow depths increase or decrease. Sign standards will be in accord with the Sign Handbook, FSH 7109.11.

Provisions should be made for closure of trails during periods when safety of the user or when resource damage is a factor; i.e., spring breakup, lack of snow, hazardous conditions. Proper signs shall be used to show when a trail is closed. A unique type of maintenance is required on trails used by snowmobiles. Snow, speed adverse weather and amount of use effect the safe and enjoyable use of such trails. On an intensive system, the trail tread (the snow) should be dragged and leveled after major snowfalls (over 6 inches) or when moguls (humps) make the trail unsafe or unenjoyable. The feasibility of dragging the tread on an extensive system should be determined by the benefits that would be realized.

TRAIL MARKING SYSTEM FOR THE
COLORADO TRAIL

APPENDIX
B

A Proposal

The system of marking will be keyed to travel time and elevational differences which are an expression of travel difficulty.

Trail Identity Marker

An identity marker is to be determined by the Foundation. It was understood, or maybe assumed earlier, that the double peak logo that has served as an identity for the Foundation would also be used to identify the trail.

Key Elements to Consider when Selecting a Marker and System Markers

1. Inexpensive to Make and Maintain
2. Durable
3. Simple and Easy to Mount
4. Resistant to Animal, Insect, and Weather
5. Maintains Color
6. Readily Identified
7. Dependable Source of Supply
8. Physical Symbol Instead of Lettered Title
9. Susceptibility to Theft (Desirability) and/or Vandalism
10. Visibility

A System

The system of marking should serve the trail travelers by guiding them through the country with a minimum of signs.

A system should have three types of signs:

1. Identity
2. Directional
3. Interpretative

The Summer Trails

The system begins at each trailhead with a schematic outline of the terrain and trails locations. The elevation of the major terrain features along the trails and the travel time between the trailhead and various attrations or junctions in that area will be shown. A map dispenser located beside the schematic display will contain trail brochures which are keyed to the schematic display and contain information about the area and any special features.

The Signs are Located on What?

The signs can be on posts of a standard size or they could be mounted on boulders, trees or concrete-cast bases. The actual mounting depends on the situation and location.

Frequency of Placement

The signs will be placed to be inter-visible in areas where the trail is not obvious. Where the trail can be easily followed even during inclement weather no markers are necessary. (Ski touring trails require frequent marking).

The Winter Trail

The winter trail location may vary each year due to the variation in the depth and type of snow. The signing must be mobile, therefore fixed signs keyed to a winter trail should not be installed.

The material used in the signs must be light, easily installed and highly visible.

A special study by Dr. Hugo Ferchau of Western State College in cooperation with the Gunnison National Forest is being continued this winter to determine a method of marking based on level of difficulty. It is anticipated that the various classes of trails would be keyed to a specific color.

It is essential that the colored markers be placed frequently enough to be seen during stormy weather or "white-out" conditions.

Signing for night time use should also be considered.